A

REVIEW

OF THE

REIGN

OF

GEORGE II.

No friend to faction, and no dupe to zeal;
Foe to all party, but the public weal. WHITEHEAD.

The SECOND EDITION.

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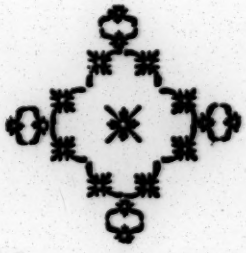

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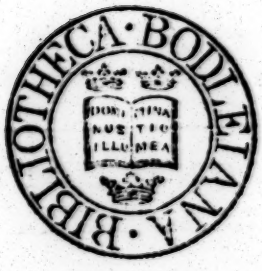
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Y.

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**** *There is no reign in the Britiſh Hiſtory, that has been chequered with a greater number of important events, than that of George II. therefore no period in it can be more intereſting: every man ought to be acquainted with it, becauſe no knowledge can be more uſeful and entertaining, than that which is contained in the Hiſtory of his own times. He will here find a view of the politics of the age, embelliſhed with the ſentiments of many great men: likewiſe a detail of all the tranſactions of the reign, both at home and abroad; and many obſervations deſigned for the unintelligent. To be brief, accurate, and perſpicuous, has been every where the author's aim: he has purſued truth without meaning to offend; and being entirely diſintereſted, has, throughout the whole, ſpoke with that freedom, candour, and honeſty, which ought to diſtinguiſh every unbiaſſed writer.*

A

REVIEW

OF THE

REIGN of GEORGE II.

BEFORE we enter into a detail of the tranſactions of this reign, it may not be amiſs to take a retroſpect of thoſe affairs which were the principal cauſes of elevating the houſe of Hanover to the throne of Great Britain.

It will afford us an opportunity for introducing the Act of Settlement; a matter of ſo much conſequence to every Briton that he ought to hold the contents of it in memory; by which he will be enabled to judge for himſelf, when the privileges of his country have been violated; and thereby ſpare us the diſagreeable trouble of making many remarks, which otherwiſe might be thought neceſſary. The family of the Stuarts continued in poſſeſſion of the diadem without any diſputes founded on conſtitutional principles, till James the ſecond; who, by his miſtaken notions of the prerogative, and exceſſive bigotry to the church of Rome, brought ruin on himſelf: he had violated the laws and liberties of the nation; he attempted

to alter the form of the government, from a legal and limited monarchy to a deſpotic power: guilty of theſe crimes, is not to be ſuppoſed he could long reign over a free people. It is ſufficient to obſerve here, that they dethroned him, and by declaring the throne vacant, excluded from hereditary right his infant ſon. The people appointed for his ſucceſſor his eldeſt daughter Mary, who was married to the prince of Orange; but ſhe declining to reign alone, and he to have any ſhare in the government, unleſs inveſted with royalty alſo, they were elected by the people king and queen. At the beginning of this reign, a bill was brought into the houſe of commons for ſettling the ſucceſſion of the crown on only proteſtant heirs, and diſabling all papiſts, and all who married papiſts, from any right to the ſucceſſion; and in that caſe, abſolving the ſubject from allegiance; and alſo recommending the princeſs Sophia, dutcheſs of Hanover, and her poſterity, as ſucceſſors, in caſe the king, and his ſiſter-in-law, the princeſs Anne, ſhould die without iſſue; but this bill did not then paſs into a law, occaſioned by the princeſs Anne's being delivered of a ſon, who was created duke of Glouceſter. Unfortunately in the year 1700 this prince died, upon which the parliament again took into conſideration the ſecurity of the proteſtant ſucceſſion; but before they nominated the perſon on whom, or whoſe heirs the ſucceſſion ſhould be ſettled, they agreed to the following reſolutions, of which the Act of Settlement is compoſed.

" That whoever ſhall hereafter come to the poſſeſſion of this crown, ſhall join in communion with the church of England as by law eſtabliſhed: That in caſe the crown and imperial dignity of this realm ſhall hereafter come to any perſon, not being a native of this kingdom of England, this nation be not obliged to engage in any war for the defence of any dominions or territories which do not belong to the crown of England, without the conſent of parliament: That no perſon who ſhall hereafter come to the poſſeſſion of the crown, ſhall go out of the dominion

dominions of England, Scotland, or Ireland, without conſent of parliament: That from and after that time, that the further limitation by this act ſhall take effect, all matters and things relating to the well governing of this kingdom, which are properly cognizable in the privy-council, by the laws and cuſtoms of the realm, ſhall be tranſacted there, and all reſolutions taken thereupon, ſhall be ſigned by ſuch of the privy-council as ſhall adviſe and conſent to the ſame: That after the limitation ſhall take effect, no perſon born out of the kingdom of England, Scotland, or Ireland, or the dominions thereunto belonging, although he be naturalized, and made a denizen (except ſuch as are born of Engliſh parents) ſhall be capable to be of the privy-council, or a member of either houſe of parliament, or to enjoy any office or place of truſt, either civil or military, or to have any grant of lands, tenements, or hereditaments from the crown to himſelf, or to any others in truſt for him: That no perſon who has an office or place of profit under the King, or receives a penſion from the crown, ſhall be capable of ſerving as member of parliament of the houſe of commons: That after the limitation ſhall take effect, judges commiſſions be made, *quamdiu ſe bene geſſerint*, and their ſalaries aſcertained and eſtabliſhed; but, upon the addreſs of both houſes of parliament, it may be lawful to remove them: That no pardon under the great ſeal of England be pleadable to an impeachment by the commons in parliament. Having ſettled theſe preliminaries, they reſolved, That the princeſs Sophia, dutcheſs dowager of Hanover, be declared the next in ſucceſſion to the crown of England, in the proteſtant line, after his majeſty and the princeſs, and the heirs of their bodies reſpectively: and, That the further limitation of the crown be to the ſaid princeſs Sophia and the heirs of her body, being proteſtants. A bill being formed

on theſe reſolutions, was ſent up to the houſe of lords, where it paſſed without amendments, and received the royal aſſent."

Anne aſcended the throne in the ſteps which William had prepared for her: She did not in the leaſt derogate from the tenor of the act of ſucceſſion; ſhe, on the contrary, ſtrengthened it with many marks of royal approbation; and laſtly, obliged her natural enemy, the French king, to abandon the pretender, acknowledege her title, and the proteſtant ſucceſſion to the crown of Great Britain, by the treaty of Utrecht. The princeſs Sophia being dead at this time, her ſon George Lewis, elector of Hanover, aſcended the throne of Great Britain on the death of Queen Anne, by the name of George the firſt.

At the concluſion of his reign, the affairs of Great Britain were intricate and perplexed by foreign connections, which were not only alien, but even prejudicial to its intereſts. The beſt politicians in the kingdom affirmed, that the ſtate was ſunk into ſuch a labyrinth, that the miniſters, in conſidering and providing for the intereſts of extraneous allies, loſt themſelves in the maze, and forgot the duty they owed to their country: the nation at this time was diſtracted within itſelf by violent factions; the tories, or the country party, who adhered to the antient conſtitution of the ſtate, and the apoſtolical hierarchy of the church of England, who were the land-holders and proprietors of the kingdom, and were conſequently a reſpectable body, had been excluded from all ſhare of the royal favour. The ſovereign had been ſtrongly prepoſſeſſed againſt them, though they were not enemies to the proteſtant ſucceſſion, and would probably have ſerved him with fidelity and affection. Thus alienated from his friendſhip, they openly expreſſed their diſlike of his perſon and government: Their leaders were men of property and extraordinary abilities, learned, experienced, bold, ſhrewd, and ſarcaſtic:

ſarcaſtic: poſſeſſed of theſe advantages, it was impoſſible their ſpeeches and remonſtrances ſhould fail of making a ſenſible impreſſion on the minds of the people; and by taking the popular ſide of every queſtion, though hardly ever ſucceſsfully, they initiated themſelves intirely into their favour.

The whigs, or the courtiers, who were the oppoſite faction, were gratified with places, penſions, and many other marks of royal favour: they were termed courtiers, becauſe they were united in a ſteady adherence to promote the meaſures of the government implicitly. They conſtituted the majority in both houſes of parliament, by well known means; their leaders were buſy, petulant, poſitive, vain, and verboſe; their beſt ſpeakers were neither nervous nor elegant, though ſometimes plauſible; they were illiterate, ignorant, noiſy, pedantic, and in general void of intellects; their arguments were ſeldom concluſive, and always buried in harangue, which was blunt, aukward, and ſlovenly. In their miniſterial capacity, they were elated, proud, and overbearing, and void of dignity and addreſs; they have been accuſed of being ignorant of the laws and conſtitution of their country; or if not, guilty of crimes which were by that means doubly iniquitous; their conſtant compliances rendered them odious; they entertained a violent hatred to the tories, whom they conſidered as their implacable enemies. The real deſign of this faction, which had been originally inſtituted in oppoſition to epiſcopacy, was ſunk in the party rage of politics. The jacobites, or the friends of hereditary right, and adherents tothe male line of the Stuarts, who, even at this time, were not an inconſiderable number, lay almoſt dormant; they were cool, cunning, and prying; they inherited a vindictive ſpirit, which they hoped the other two violent factions would ſhortly afford them an opportunity to diſplay. A coalition of the two former

parties

parties would have totally blaſted every gleam of hope in the latter. The king died at Oſnabrug in Germany, on the 11th day of June, 1727.

On the fourteenth, an expreſs arrived in London, with an account of his death, upon which his ſon, the prince of Wales, removed from Richmond to Leiceſter houſe; and very early notified his intentions of preſerving the conſtitution in church and ſtate, and adhering to the ſame principles of government which his father had eſtabliſhed. Next day he was proclaimed, and the parliament met, and were prorogued to the 27th. Though the nation, at this time, greatly wiſhed for an alteration of meaſures, yet the influence of baſe men, rather increaſed than diminiſhed. The man who affected to act in the capacity of prime miniſter, was ſaid to be at the head of all corruption, from his common practice of dealing with every man according to his price; his extraordinary talents had raiſed him from a low beginning; he was a warm whig, becauſe he found his intereſt in it; and he thruſt himſelf up to the head of that faction, becauſe he was ambitious of being in power; he unweariedly employed all his abilities to the —— of his country, by proſtituting its conſtitution; he enliſted in his ſervice the moſt abandoned emiſſaries, whom he engaged to ſupport and vindicate meaſures which were big with infamy: he looked upon all ſcience as mechanical; and he knew no other trades but thoſe of ſtock-jobbing and ſelling——in ——— He was aided by a band of——who poſſeſſed the ſame ſentiments, but not equal abilities; who were dead to every ſpark of public ſpirit, honour and virtue; who were grown old in the practices of luxury, proſtitution and vice; who ſquandered away the money of the nation, on the moſt ſhameful and iniquitous purpoſes; who, to vindicate their own proceedings, or rather to prevent their being enquired into, kept a ſtanding army, and made the people habitual to it; who

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infringed on the franchiſe of their conſtitution; and who, in the face of ſenſe, truth, and juſtice, branded, as enemies to the royal family, all who doubted the uprightneſs of their meaſures.

At the meeting of the Parliament, purſuant to their prorogation, addreſſes of condolance and congratulation were preſented; and the commons, on a motion made by Sir Robert Walpole, took into conſideration a ſupply for the King; he remarked, that the annual ſum of 700,000l. ſettled on the late king, had fallen ſhort every year; and as the family of the new king was likely to increaſe, he thought that the intire revenues of the civil liſt, amounting to 800,000l. *per annum* ſhould be granted. It produced a violent debate; Mr. Shippen, one of the leaders in the oppoſition, who was ſhrewd and bold, affirmed, that a great ſaving might be made out of many perſonal expences, particularly thoſe attending frequent journies to Hanover, which he hoped would be diſcontinued; that it did not become them, as repreſentatives, to give away the public money, without having a ſtrict obſervance on frugality; he expatiated, and paid great encomiums on Queen Anne's œconomy; he was ſevere on the enormous ſums which had been ſunk in the myſterious and unfathomable gulph of *ſecret* ſervices in the late reign; on the many occaſional taxes, and on the vaſt ſums implicity granted for purpoſes, which only a few were acquainted with; and he heartily wiſhed that the concealed iniquities of the hired ſlaves, and corrupt inſtruments of the adminiſtration, were brought to light, who had been perverted from public duty by private penſions; and laſtly, he propoſed granting the ſame ſum to the king which his father had been endowed with.

As it was impoſſible to frame an anſwer to this ſpeech, none was attempted; therefore the houſe agreed to the motion of granting the king the clear ſum of 700,000l. *per annum*. At this time the commons

mons receiv'd a meſſage from the king, requeſting a further proviſion for his queen; upon which they reſolved, that in caſe ſhe ſurvived him, to grant her 100,000l. *per annum* for life, charged on the revenues of the civil liſt, and the palace of Somerſet houſe and lodge, and the lands of Richmond old Park. Then the Parliament was prorogued, and ſoon after diſſolved.

The changes which followed were extremely few. The ſecretaries of ſtate were the lord Townſhend and the duke of Newcaſtle, as before; Mr. Pelham, the duke's brother, was ſecretary at war; Sir Robert Walpole, chancellor of the exchequer and firſt lord of the treaſury; by which he was conſidered as prime miniſter*; The earl of Cheſterfield was ambaſſador to the Hague, and lord Carteret, lord lieutenant of Ireland.

Though the people, in general, ſhewed a great diſlike to the adminiſtration, yet the power of money operated ſo ſtrongly in their favour at moſt of the elections, that a majority was ſecured according to their wiſh. When the parliament met, Arthur Onſlow, Eſq; was unamiouſly choſen ſpeaker; he was a gentlemam who poſſeſſed an extenſive knowledge, was grave and eloquent, and by all parties allowed impartial and virtuous. The king opened the ſeſſion, with a ſpeech, expreſſing his deſire of reducing the expence of the public money, as ſoon as it could be done to their intereſt and ſafety; of ſeeing an eſtabliſhed ſcheme for the encouragement of ſeamen, in order to avoid preſſing; and he concluded, with recommending unanimity for the diſpatch of public buſineſs. This ſpeech, as is common, was undoubtedly

* It was in this capacity he was odious to the people. They could not help looking with abhorrence on a premier whoſe office is inconſiſtent with the conſtitution; according to which, in affairs of the government, the king ought to have no favourites.

edly penned by the miniſter, and put into the mouth of majeſty only to ſooth the minds of the people into an acquieſcence of his meaſures; but it was by many ſuſpected to be without any real intention of complying with the tenor of it. The addreſſes of the two houſes, in return, were, as uſual, the echoes of the ſpeech. The king ordered the eſtimates to be laid before the commons; and they voted 22,955 men for guards and garriſons, and 15,000 ſeamen, for the ſervice of the next year: the former occaſioned a debate, wherein it was urged, that a numerous ſtanding army was dangerous to the conſtitution; but the miniſtry carried their point by a very great majority. The ſum of 230,923l. was granted to maintain 12,000 Heſſian auxiliaries, which alſo occaſioned a diſpute; but the miniſtry triumphed. Then a ſubſidy of 50,000l. was granted to the king of Sweden, in conſequence of a convention which the late king in the laſt year of his reign had made with him, promiſing to pay 50,000l. annually for three years, in conſideration of his holding 10,000 men ready to march to the relief of Hanover if it ſhould be attacked; and half that ſum to the duke of Brunſwic Wolfenbuttle: in ſhort, the expences of the year, though in a time of public tranquility, amounted to four millions! which were raiſed by a land-tax of three ſhillings in the pound, a malt-tax, and by borrowing of the Bank 1,750,000 l. for which annuities, raiſed by duty on coals imported into London, were given, amounting to 70,000l *. An additional tax

* When this loan was deliberated upon, Mr. William Pulteney, a gentleman of extraordinary abilities, learning, experience and knowledge; well read in hiſtory and politics, and better acquainted with the Britiſh conſtitution, finances and government, than any, or all the miniſters, very judiciouſly remarked, that the ſhifting of funds was only perpetuating taxes, and putting off the evil day; that the ſinking fund was no other than a pompous project;

on coals could not fail alarming the citizens of London, as it affected them only; therefore the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council, presented a petition, praying, that such a tax might not be laid; for the duties already on coals affected the trade of the city, discouraged their manufactures, and was a great hardship on the trading inhabitants: however, in spite of humanity, their petition was rejected, and the tax was imposed.

The house addressed the king, for an account how the money was expended which had been granted the year before, which was laid before them; except 250,000l. not mentioned; for a distinct and peculiar account of which, they addressed him again; but he declined their request, by answering, part had been expended by his father, and the remainder by himself, on some services which required the greatest secrecy. This answer was absolutely unparliamentary, and would thirty years before, have raised a dangerous ferment in the house. Mr. Pulteney strongly censured such an unparliamentary answer, and vague, and general way of accounting for public money. It was urged, that if such frivolous answers were accepted, which might be given with equal propriety on every enquiry how the public money is expended, they rendered the use of parliaments unnecessary, and covered the embezzlements of corrupt and rapacious ministers. The commons next took into consideration the state of the national debt; and having examined the accounts, and interrogated proper

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project; and since it had been carried into execution, had visibly encreased the national debt. He was so well acquainted with the state of all public debts, that it could be only he who published a remarkable pamphlet at this time on that subject; which Sir Robert Walpole took notice of, in order to falsify its calculations; and some sharp altercation passed between them on it.

persons,

perſons, a partizan of the miniſtry made a motion, that it appeared the ſum of money already iſſued and applied for diſcharging the national debt, including a ſum which would be iſſued at Lady-Day, amounted to 6,648,762l. The leaders of the oppoſition, inveighed againſt the fallacy and deceit of this motion; on the fradulent artifices in making out the accounts; on the profuſe management of the public money; and, notwithſtanding the eſtabliſhment of the ſinking fund, the national debt was increaſing in a time of profound tranquility; with all the heavy and enormous taxes on the people; grievances which muſt be perpetuated to lateſt poſterity. However, the motion was carried in favour of the miniſtry, and it was agreed to lay before the king, an account of the national debt, with the ſums diſcharged and incurred ſince the year 1716, and a ſtate of the ſinking fund, and of the public credit. It is worth obſerving, that in the particular account of theſe debts, the ſum of 300,000l. relating to a duty on wrought plate, was at firſt omitted; but being diſcovered, it occaſioned a warm debate, and ſome ſevere reflections on thoſe who were paid to ſuperintend the public accounts; but it was afterwards added. The king received this account of the national debt with great ſatisfaction, and ſaid, the means which had been eſtabliſhed for gradually diſcharging it, were ſo certain, that nothing but ſome unforeſeen event, could prevent their proving effectual. The whole deſign of this motion and repreſentation, was no more than a contrivance of the miniſter's, to keep up his credit with the people, by endeavouring to make them believe the national debt was not likely to be attended with thoſe conſequences which the oppoſition laid down as infallible, and to ſhew that the methods taken to reduce it were certain. On the 4th day of May following, a meſſage was ſent into the houſe by the king, requeſting a vote of credit to fulfil certain en-

gagements, entered into with the conſent of the late parliament, for ſecuring the trade and navigation of his kingdoms, and preſerving the peace of Europe; it occaſioned a debate, but the majority reſolved to grant it.

The lords were employed this ſeſſion, in making debates on the national debt; in peruſing copies of treaties and alliances, ſubmitted to their inſpection by the king: they made an attempt to amend the ſtatute of limitations, but it miſcarried; they paſſed the mutiny bill; an act obliging all veſſels, coming from infected places, to perform quarantine; and the bills relating to the ſupplies; all which received the royal aſſent; and the king cloſed the ſeſſion on the 28th day of May, with thanking the commons for the effectual ſupplies they had granted, and for having empowered him to borrow 500,000*l.* to diſcharge the wages due to the ſeamen of the royal navy.

Though the ariſtocratical part of the government was deemed ſome time ago to have extended its conſtitutional bounds, yet towards the cloſe of this ſeſſion, we find it ſtrengthened with the additional names of lord Monſon, late Sir John Monſon, lord Malton, late Sir Thomas Wentworth, lord Hobart, late Sir John Hobart, and lord Lovel, late Sir Thomas Coke.

In the late reign ſome differences had broke out between the courts of Hanover and Vienna, and London and Madrid, which were not yet terminated, though a congreſs had been opened ſome time ago at Soiſſons. Hoſtilities had ceaſed in Europe before the death of George I. but in America the Spainards continued to commit depredations, with impunity, on the ſubjects of Great-Britain, and the fleet of this nation lay rotting there, in a ſtate of inactivity; while the ſailors were periſhing in the utmoſt miſery, without daring to do juſtice for their injured country.

Spain

Spain renewed a good underſtanding with France, and added ſtrength to her intereſt, by concluding a double marriage with the royal family of Portugal. During the time of holding a congreſs at Soiſſons, the duke of Parma, gave the pretender an invitation to reſide in his dominions, promiſing to receive him with the marks of honour and reſpect due to the king of Great-Britain; on which Signior Como, the duke's reſident at London, was ordered to depart the kingdom in two days. In ſhort, the peace of Europe ſeemed to hang in the ſame ſuſpence as at the concluſion of the late king's reign *.

On the 21ſt of January, 1729, the parliament met, and the king opened the ſeſſion with acquainting them, the congreſs had not been ſo ſucceſsful as he expected;

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* On the 3d day of Auguſt, this year, died the duke of Brunſwic Lunenburg, biſhop of Oſnabrug, duke of York and Albany, and earl of Ulſter, brother to George the firſt. He was ſucceeded in his biſhopric, by the elector of Cologn, according to the treaty of Munſter, enacting, that the biſhopric of Oſnabrug, ſhall be alternately poſſeſſed by the elector of Cologn, a papiſt, and a prince of the houſe of Brunſwic, a proteſtant.

On the 4th day of December, the king's eldeſt ſon, prince Frederick, arrived in England from Hanover, where he had hitherto reſided, it having been partly doubted whether the heir apparent to the crown ſhould not reſide in Great-Britain. On his arrival he was introduced into the privy-council, and created prince of Wales.

Lord Cateret, who had been appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland, was received in that kingdom with marks of general eſteem. The buſineſs of the Iriſh parliament was carried on with great unanimity and regularity; they eſtabliſhed funds for the diſcharge of their national debt; they repaired the highways and bridges; removed nuiſances; encouraged the finding and working of mines and minerals; enquired into the ſtate of the hempen and flax manufactures, and gave conſiderable ſums for the encouragement of both; they promoted tillage, and inſpected the abuſes committed by bakers, millers, and farmers. In ſhort, they did every thing a wiſe people could ſuggeſt, towards laying uſeful foundations and improvements.

which he afterwards inſinuated was principally owing to the hopes the courts of Vienna and Madrid had entertained of creating diſcontents and diviſions among his ſubjects; and he requeſted ſuch ſupplies as ſhould enable him to act vigorouſly, in concert with his allies, in caſe he could not eſtabliſh an advantageous peace. The ſtriking inſinuation contained in this ſpeech, was univerſally attributed to the miniſter who penned it with a view of intimidating the members in the oppoſition: he with his numerous adherents, puſhed the hint as far as it would go, and they obtained ſuch an addreſs to the throne, as was perfectly agreeable to themſelves. The eſtimates being laid before the houſe, they unanimouſly voted 15,000 ſeamen for the ſervice of the enſuing year; but the motion for continuing the army of 23,000 men, granted the preceding year, occaſioned a ſtrong debate; Mr. William Pulteney, Mr. Shippen, and Sir Joſeph Jekyl, maſter of the rolls, proved from hiſtory and experience, the danger into which a ſtanding army brought the conſtitution; and how often, and even at this time, it threatened the deſtruction of the liberties of the people. They enlarged on the extraordinary and unneceſſary ſums paid to the landgrave of Heſſe, and the duke of Brunſwic Wolfenbuttle, and ſmartly obſerved, that as theſe princes, uſually maintained a certain number of troops, it was but reaſonable Great-Britain ſhould only pay for thoſe raiſed extraordinary on her account. The beſt of arguments at this time had no weight, the court party carried their point by a majority of 256 againſt 91, and they granted 50,000l. to be paid to the king of Sweden. Theſe ſupplies where raiſed by continuing the land-tax, the duties on cyder, perry, and malt; by an additional duty on unmalted corn, uſed in diſtilling; and by the ſale of annuities to the Bank, not exceeding 50,000l. *per annum.* The timidity of the miniſtry, in not revenging the unwarrantable

ravages

ravages daily committed on the Britiſh ſubjects in America, by the Spaniards, raiſed loud clamours all over the nation. The people could not hear without indignation, of their friends being killed or carried into captivity, and their property ſeized, without any colour of equitable reaſon; and not be permitted to return hoſtilities on ſo preſuming and haughty an adverſary; they were on fire to repel their injuries: the merchants of Briſtol and Liverpool, firſt diſtinguiſhed themſelves, in preſenting petitions to the houſe of commons, complaining of their wrongs, of the frequent depredations of the Spaniards on their trade in the Weſt-Indies. Theſe being read, the lords of the admiralty were ordered to lay before the houſe, the other memorials of the ſame kind which they had received; the houſe addreſſed the king for admiral Hoſier's inſtructions, and thoſe of the commander in chief who ſucceeded him, in order to lay them before the congreſs at Soiſſons. Other merchants preſented petitions, complaining of the ſame grievances, which the houſe having deliberated upon, and heard evidence, addreſſed the king, requeſting he would uſe his endeavours to prevent theſe depredations for the future; that he would procure ſatisfaction for his ſubjects, and ſecure them the free exerciſe of commerce and navigation, to and from his colonies in America. He in his anſwer, aſſured them he would do all that lay in his power to comply with their deſires and expectations. They alſo addreſſed him for a particular account how 60,000l. had been expended, which had been raiſed for the ſervice of the laſt year, and was only mentioned in the public account, without the particulars; but they received for anſwer, *that no particular account of the ſame could be given, without a manifeſt prejudice to the public.* A bill was prepared, and paſſed the Houſe without oppoſition, to prevent bribery and corruption in elections for members of parliament,

ment. Their attention was entirely taken up with debates on the Spaniſh depredations, in which the moſt ſenſible and honeſt members ſeemed to be of opinion, that theſe continued inſults, were in a great meaſure owing to the negligence, timidity, and incapacity of the miniſtry; they enquired further into the particulars of theſe grievances; they paſſed ſome reſolutions, in which they accuſed the Spaniards of having violated the treaties ſubſiſting between the two crowns; of having treated inhumanly the maſters and crews of ſeveral Britiſh trading veſſels in the Weſt-Indies; they juſtified admiral Hoſier's inſtructions, to make repriſals of the Spaniſh flota and galleons, till ſatisfaction ſhould be obtained for the injured Britiſh ſubjects; on which account they again addreſſed the king, and he promiſed to grant their requeſt. An account of the civil-liſt revenues was laid before the houſe, agreeable to their requeſt; when the courtiers affirmed, they fell ſhort of the ſum of 800,000l. granted the King, and propoſed to grant an additional ſum of 115,000l. by a bill for ſettling the price of imported corn, to diſcharge deficiences and arrears of the civil-liſt; this was warmly and ſenſibly oppoſed by Mr. Pulteney, and other members; but the miniſters carried their point without ſuffering the particulars, or the truth, to be enquired into. It was lucky for the miniſtry, that Mr. Oglethorpe, made a motion for inſpecting the public gaols, and for preventing the cruelties uſed by gaolers on their priſoners, as it diverted the attention of the parliament, at a time when the nation was exaſperated againſt the miniſtry; therefore, they very politically encouraged a ſtrict enquiry into this abuſe. A committee was appointed for this purpoſe, of which Mr. Oglethorpe, was choſen chairman; they went in a body to viſit Fleet-Priſon, where they found Sir William Rich, baronet, loaded with irons, for ſome ſlight offence, which he had given to Bambridge,

bridge the warden; a deteſtable ruffian, who had committed the moſt inhuman barbarities, frauds, and extortions, his villainous imagination could contrive. The farther they enquired into this ſhocking ſcene of cruelty, they found it every way extending with horror and infamy; for which Bambridge and Higgins, the late warden, who had acted in the ſame oppreſſive manner, with four of their accomplices, were committed to Newgate, and proſecuted by the attorney-general; and a bill was brought in for the better regulating this priſon.

The lords deliberared on the poſitive demands made by the Spaniards, of the reſtitution of Gibraltar and Minorca; the former founded on a conditional promiſe of his late majeſty's, in a letter to the king of Spain, wherein it was ſpecified, "That he "[George I.] would make uſe of the firſt favourable "opportunity to regulate the article of its reſtitution, "with the conſent of his parliament." A motion was made, for the better ſecuring the commerce of the kingdom; that care ſhould be taken at the concluſion of the next treaty with Spain, that ſhe renounced, in expreſs terms, all her claims to Gibraltar and Minorca; but this equitable motion was over-ruled and altered into a complimentary one to the king, thus; that the houſe entirely relied on him, that he would, for the ſecuring the commerce of the kingdom, take care in his treaty with Spain, to ſecure his right to Gibraltar and Minorca. They examined ſeveral papers relative to the depredations of the Spaniards; during which they could not help uttering many ſevere expreſſions on the conduct of the miniſtry. Several of the lords were of opinion that Hoſier's expedition was an unreaſonable burden on the nation. They were ſurprized at the clauſe in the corn bill, for granting an additional ſum to the king; they affirmed, that inſtead of a deficiency in the civil-liſt revenues, there was a conſiderable ſurplus. They

remarked that this was a new burden on the people, at a time when they were oppreſſed with heavy taxes, their foreign trade diminiſhed, their manufactures decayed, and their poor multiplied, and the public debts increaſed; that if the revenues of the civil-liſt did not amount to the annual ſum of 800,000l. the deficiency muſt be made good by the public; but if they ſhould exceed that ſum, there were no means mentioned how the overplus ſhould be applied. In ſpite of argument, the courtiers triumphed here, as in the lower houſe; they defied national reproach, and held in contempt public ſpirit, ſentiment, and ſhame; though fourteen of the lords entered into a very ſtrong and plauſible proteſt againſt it. Every reader who has any knowledge of the iniquity of theſe times, may eaſily form an idea how the money had been expended, which was to be ſupplied by this additional grant; for it was well known by what means the miniſter acquired his intereſt in parliament, and how he preſerved it. On the 14th day of May, the public and private bills received the royal aſſent, in which there was one for the relief of inſolvent debtors, and an act enabling the queen to be regent of the kingdom, without taking the oaths, while the king went to Hanover, of which he declared his intention in his ſpeech; and ſet out in three days after. The kingdom at this time enjoyed uninterrupted tranquility, and commerce began to increaſe, notwithſtanding the diſcouragement and reſtrictions of thoſe pretended friends to their country, who were every day ſapping its conſtitution and intereſt *.

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* The court writings at this time on the Spaniſh depredations, &c. were of a piece with the courtiers; they were patched up without connexion, knowledge, or accuracy; and frequently afforded

In the month of November, the differences between Great Britain and Spain were amicably ſettled by a treaty concluded at Seville. The congreſs at Soiſſons having proved abortive, conferences were held at Seville, by the plenipotentiaries of England, France, and Spain, without the concurrence of the emperor. This famous treaty implied, that all the former treaties ſhould ſubſiſt as they were; that the commerce in Europe and the Indies, ſhould be reſtored to its former footing; and that the Spaniards ſhould make reſtitution of their unlawful ſeizures and depredations, which were to be proved ſo, at their court, by Britiſh commiſſaries. This laſt ſtipulation at once reflected diſhonour upon the nation, and was a hardſhip on the Britiſh ſubjects; for few merchants cared to be at the trouble and expence of a journey to the court of Spain, to prove their loſſes, eſpecially when they had reaſon to apprehend their demands would be counter-balanced by the Spaniards. The other extra-

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afforded an excellent handle for the oppoſition to turn the miniſters into ridicule.

The ſtipulation on which the Spaniards inſiſted relative to the diſpute in America, was, that the Engliſh ſhould be excluded from all right of cutting logwood in Campeachey, or of trade to that bay. The Spaniards had made this demand in the year 1717, when George I. referred it to the board of trade; who were of opinion the Engliſh had a right to cut logwood there; they founded their judgment on the Engliſh being the firſt ſettlers, and by the treaty made in 1670, when their right was confirmed, and alſo by that of Utrecht made in 1713.

Victor Amadæus king of Sardinia, this year reſigned his crown in favour of his ſon Charles Emanuel, prince of Piedmont. Peter II. czar of Muſcovy, and grand-ſon of Peter I. died in the fifteenth year of his age at Muſcow, and was ſucceeded on the Ruſſian throne by the princeſs Anne Ivanouna, ſecond daughter of John Alexowitz, elder brother of Peter I. and widow of Frederic William, duke of Courland. This year was alſo rendered remarkable by the death of pope Benedict XIII. The cardinal Laurence Corſini, was placed in the papal chair, where he aſſumed the name of Clement XII.

ordinary articles of this famous treaty, imported, that the Engliſh ſhould aſſiſt in introducing 6000 Spaniſh troops, as garriſons into the towns of Parma and Tuſcany, without any ſpecification of methods, in order to ſecure thoſe duchies to the immediate ſucceſſion of the infant don Carlos, ſon to the king of Spain, and that they ſhould guaranty theſe ſtates to him for ever.' At beſt, theſe latter articles were an open breach of the quadruple alliance made in 1719; wherein it was ſtipulated, that neutral, and not Spaniſh troops, ſhould be introduced, into the towns of Parma and Tuſcany, nor were they to continue there till don Carlos, and his ſucceſſors, ſhould be ſecure from all events. England's agreeing to theſe articles, ſo foreign to her intereſts, can only be imputed to the weakneſs of her miniſters; for there was the greateſt probability that her ſubſcribing to them, would involve her in endleſs quarrels and diſputes, about a country with which ſhe had no concern.

This year lord Carteret, returned from Ireland, and was ſucceeded in the lieutenancy of that kingdom by the duke of Dorſet. In England, Charles lord Townſhend reſigned the ſeals, which were given to the earl of Harrington, late colonel Stanhope; by this alteration Sir Robert Walpole, reigned without a rival. James earl of Waldegrave, was appointed ambaſſador to the court of France, which was filled with joy on the birth of a dauphin.

On the 13th day of January 1730, the king opened the ſeſſion of parliament, with a ſpeech enumerating the contents of the treaty of Seville, wherein it muſt be owned that his obſervations differed from the tenor of it; particularly, where he ſaid it was founded on former treaties, and tended to fulfil the quadruple alliance. He ſaid he had given orders for reducing both the army and the fleet, and recommended to their conſideration the ſtate of public credit. When the lords took the treaty of Seville into conſideration, they

they did not let it paſs without ſevere admiadverſion. The ſenſible peers, who diſtinguiſhed themſelves in the intereſt of their country, ſaw that throughout the whole treaty, there was an artful omiſſion of ſecuring to Great-Britain, her right to Gibraltar and Minorca. They expatiated on ſome parts of it being a manifeſt violation of the quadruple alliance; that it might detach the emperor from the intereſt of England, and that the ſtipulations for repairing the loſſes of the Britiſh merchants, were inſufficient and precarious, and twenty-four peers entered into a proteſt againſt it. They were able and plauſible ſpeakers, and their opinions were induſtriouſly circulated throughout the united kingdoms; in every part of which, the people had ſhewed a diſlike to the proceedings of the miniſter, and now it was heightened to a deteſtation. When the penſion bill was brought into the houſe of lords, "For diſabling all perſons "from being members of the lower houſe, who had "any penſion during pleaſure, or for any number "of years, or any offices, held in truſt for them, "under the crown," it occaſioned a violent debate, and was at length thrown out by the courtiers; but this triumph was clogged with a proteſt of twenty-ſix peers, which rendered the miniſtry ſtill more unpopular. Such alſo was the caſe of the mutiny-bill; but never did the miniſtry appear more abſurd than in their defence of keeping the Heſſian troops, in the pay of Great-Britain; it was affirmed againſt them, that if their engagements with Spain, France, and Holland, were good for any thing, what could Great-Britain have to fear, that theſe troops ſhould continue in her pay; they anſwered that the emperor ſhewed a deſign of diſturbing the peace of Europe. This aſſertion was true, but then ſuch a deſign was in conſequence of their concluding the treaty of Seville, without his knowledge, though he was nearly concerned, and of agreeing to ſuch ſtipulations

lations as were contrary to the tenor of the quadruple alliance which he had ſigned. But the miniſtry carried their point, which made ſuch an impreſſion on the body of the people, that ſome of them were almoſt induced to believe the keeping in this time of peace, ſo large a number of foreign mercenaries, were intended in ſupport of wicked deſigns on their conſtitution. When the charge of the land forces fell under the conſideration of the commons, ſome of the moſt ſenſible members ſtrongly inveighed againſt this Germanizing the kingdom, to tamely ſubmit to a military government. They again and again repeated their animadverſions, on the treaty of Seville, which the miniſtry at firſt ſaid was an abſolute peace, and could not involve Great-Britain in any quarrels or diſputes. Where then is the neceſſity, ſaid Mr. Shippen, of demanding all theſe troops (almoſt 18,000, beſides foreigners) in a time of public peace? they are not neceſſary to make Spain adhere to her own treaty? they cannot force the emperor to accede to it? they are not neceſſary for the ſafety of the king. "Force and "violence are the reſort of uſurpers and tyrants "only, becauſe they are, with good reaſon, diſtruſtful "of the people whom they oppreſs; and becauſe "they have no other ſecurity for the continuance of "their unlawful and unnatural dominion, than what "depends entirely on the ſtrength of their armies." The motion for granting the land forces was made by Mr. Henry Pelham, ſecretary; and being ſupported by the whole weight of the miniſtry, aſſembled for that purpoſe, was forced through the houſe on the ſhoulders of a conſiderable majority. Another bill was brought in by the courtiers, for prohibiting all his majeſty's ſubjects from lending ſums of money to foreign princes or ſtates, without his licence. Sir Robert Walpole, pretended it was to prevent the emperor from borrowing a large ſum

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in England. Mr. Daniel Pulteney, Mr. Barnard, and other gentlemen, acquainted with commerce, expoſed the pernicious effects of this bill; they argued on its being a reſtraint on the Engliſh trade; that it would render Holland the market of Europe; that the king of Portugal frequently borrowed money of the Engliſh merchants, reſiding in his dominions; that it totally diſabled the nation from aſſiſting its beſt allies, but not did prevent the ſtock-jobbers from trading in foreign funds, which ought to be prohibited, for the Engliſh had been great ſufferers by that means; that while the licenſing remained in the power of the crown, the licenſes would paſs through the hands of the miniſter, who by this new trade might gain from twenty to forty thouſand pounds a year; that it would render the exchequer a court of inquiſition, and that it was a violation of our fundamental laws and liberties. But reaſon, remonſtrance, and evidence had no weight, with perſons who were proof againſt conviction; the bill was forced through the houſe, and afterwards enacted into law. They continued the ſubſidies to the landgrave of Heſſe, and the duke of Brunſwic Wolfenbuttle, in ſpite of all that could be urged againſt this unneceſſary load of expence. To the honour of this ſeſſion it muſt be owned, that one million of the ſurplus, ariſing from the ſinking fund, was ordered towards diſcharging the national debt. The duties on ſalt were extingiſhed, and the traders and planters of Carolina, were encouraged to export rice. An attempt was made to lay open the Eaſt-India trade, the charter of this company being very near expiring, by Sir John Barnard, and other eminent merchants, but it failed; and the charter of the company was prolonged to the year 1766. On the 15th of May, the king cloſed the ſeſſion by a ſpeech, importing, that he was glad they had approved of what fell under their conſideration, notwithſtanding all the clamours of thoſe incendaries,

who,

who, by ſcandalous libels endeavoured to alienate the affections of his people.

The emperor reſented the inſult offered him by the treaty of Seville, reſpecting the garriſons of Tuſcany and Parma, by prohibiting the Britiſh ſubjects from trading in his dominions; and he began to make preparations for war. The power of the miniſter was ſo great, that his friends were daily ſucceeding to the greateſt places; ſuch unlimitted favours beſtowed on one man, diſguſted many of the whigs, who had been old ſervants to the crown, and warm adherents to the proteſtant ſucceſſion; many of them reſigned, while every circumſtance ſerved to make the miniſter more odious to the people *.

The parliament met on the 21ſt of January 1731. The bill againſt penſioners ſitting in the houſe of commons, paſſed that houſe, but was rejected by the lords. The ſubſidies to the landgrave of Heſſe, and the duke of Wolfenbuttle were continued. The delays of juſtice having been very great, occaſioned by the law proceedings being in Latin, they were

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* A licentious and wicked degeneracy prevailed all over the kingdom at this time; it was infeſted with robbers, thieves, and aſſaſſins in every part; even the very ſtreets of the capital were dangerous to walk in after day-light. A wantonneſs of barbarity, a deſperate and ſavage ſpirit of cruelty, ſeemed to influence theſe miſcreants in committing their horrid crimes. Incendiary letters at this time took their riſe, and every ſpecies of villainy was practiſed that their evil imaginations could ſuggeſt. This peculiar depravity muſt no doubt have taken its riſe from the viſible conduct of thoſe that preyed upon the ——, and it was ſuffered to proceed in defiance of the laws, from the want of police in the interior government.

Seven Indian chiefs of the Cherokee nation, in North America, were this year introduced to the king, at whoſe feet they laid their crown and regalia, and acknowledged themſelves his ſubjects; they were amazed at the magnificence of his court, they ſigned ſeveral articles of friendſhip and commerce, and were diſmiſſed loaded with preſents.

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ordered to be for the future in Engliſh. The depredations and cruelties of the Spaniards ſtill continuing, ſeveral petitions were preſented to the houſe, by many injured ſubjects; and it appeared upon examination, that their complaints were well founded. Upon which the houſe addreſſed the king, to procure ſatisfaction for his ſubjects. Dr. Sherlock, biſhop of Bangor, made a remarkable ſpeech in the houſe of lords, againſt the penſion bill, which he conſidered as a ſcheme to enlarge the power of the commons, and to break the balance ſo eſſential between the powers of the two houſes, and would ſooner or later prove the ruin of the conſtitution. This abſurd, ridiculous, and court-like ſpeech, drew on him the indignation of many worthy men *.

* The differences between the emperor and the king of Great-Britain and Spain, were amicably adjuſted by a treaty ſigned at Vienna on the 22d of July, and Sir Charles Wager, was ordered to ſail from England with a ſquadron to convey the infant don Carlos to his dominions; which was accordingly done, and don Carlos ſettled in Italy. By this treaty the Oſtend company, who had given umbrage to ſome of the maritime powers, were totally aboliſhed. In Auguſt, a treaty of union, and defenſive alliance between the electorates of Hanover and Saxony, was ſigned at Dreſden.

The ſpirit of political writing raged with uncommon fury at this time; the pamphlets of the two parties were a true characteriſtic of each. The hackneyed writers of the miniſtry were ſtupid, ſcurrilous, needy, ignorant, and illiterate; while thoſe of the oppoſition, managed by lord Bolingbroke, Mr. William Pulteney, and other ſenſible and learned men, opened ſuch an inexauſtible fund of political knowledge, as was the aſtoniſhment of mankind. Their wit and ſatire flowed with elegance and eaſe; they were nervous, poignant, decent, and bold: they conducted a famous paper which roſe at this time, called the Craftſman, which was attacked with great acrimony by the partizans of the miniſter, but the arrows they ſhot againſt it, had no more effect than if they had been ſhot againſt one of the pyramids of Egypt. Lord Hervey, ſon to the earl of Briſtol, was ſaid to have wrote a pamphlet entitled, Sedetion and Defamation diſplayed; and

Mr.

The ſeſſion of parliament was opened by the king on the 13th of January. All the arguments for and againſt a ſtanding army were revived; and declamation abounded on the ſide of the miniſtry. Severe animadverſions on foreign connexions and inconſiſtent treaties, the danger of the conſtitution from a ſtanding army, beſides the expence of maintaining it, flowed from the oppoſition. The ſalt duties which had been taken off in the year 1730, were this ſeſſion laid on again. This impoſition produced great debates; it was a time of public tranquility, and the king had promiſed to take off ſome of thoſe taxes which affected the poor; but this renewing them, ſaid the members in the oppoſition, ſhewed a determination to grind the faces of the poor, in order to eaſe a few rich men. They expatiated on the great price of all proviſions, on the hardſhips of the tradeſmen, and the murmurs of the people, which was the next to open ſedition; but it was like talking in a deſart. An enquiry into the ſtate of the charitable corporation was made by the houſe of commons. The intention of this company, which had been inſtituted in the year 1707, was to lend money at legal intereſt on goods; their capital was at firſt limited to 30,000l. but by licences from the crown, it was extended to 600,000l. though their charter was never confirmed by parliament. Great embezzlements it appeared had been made by the caſhier, George Robinſon, Eſq; member for Marlow,

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Mr. William Pulteney, to have wrote an anſwer under the title of A proper Reply. Some diſputes paſſed between theſe gentlemen in the houſe, when they did not abſolutely deny theſe pieces; but they were ſo warm, that their diſpute became perſonal, upon which lord Hervey challenged Mr. Pulteney to meet him in the Green-Park, which was accepted; but the miniſter's ſubaltern received two ſlight wounds, and very narrowly eſcaped being run through the body, when they were parted by their ſeconds.

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and the warehouſe-keeper John Thompſon, and it was ſuſpected, in concert with many perſons of opulence and rank; the whole was one of the moſt black and iniquitous ſcenes that ever was diſcovered, and reflected indelible infamy on many perſons. Sir Robert Sutton and Sir Archibald Grant, were expelled the houſe, for being concerned in theſe fraudulent practices, as was alſo George Robinſon, Eſq; A letter was brought to the houſe from Belloni, the pretender's banker at Rome, acquainting them that Thompſon was ſecured in that city, and all his papers taken from him, which ſhould be tranſmitted to England upon certain ſtipulations in favour of the priſoner. This letter was immediately looked upon as an artifice of the pretender's to inſinuate a favourable opinion of himſelf, into the minds of the people; by pretending that what he had done was for the ſake of juſtice, and the love he had for them; therefore it was conſidered as an inſolent libel, and ordered to be burned by the hangman at the Royal Exchange. Another ſcene of iniquitous fraud was detected by lord Gage, in the ſale of the forfeited eſtate belonging to the late earl of Derwentwater, for which Dennis Bond, Eſq; and ſerjeant Birch, commiſſioners of the ſale, were expelled the houſe. Five members were expelled the houſe this ſeſſion for the moſt infamous acts of villainy; a certain ſign of national degeneracy and diſgrace. All the ſupplies were granted after ſtrong debates, and the ſum of 22,694l. was granted for an agio or difference of the ſubſidies payable to Denmark, purſuant to the treaty made with that monarch by George I. after a violent diſpute. On the firſt of June the ſeſſion was cloſed, and a few days after the king ſet out for Hanover, and left the queen regent *.

* The leaders of the parties were frequently ſo warm in their political diſputes, that they deſcended to the moſt invective and

The power of miniſterial influence was now ſo great, that nothing could check it, but the danger of internal commotion; this the government were on the point of experiencing, when it was ſuſpected that a general exciſe was intended to be laid. The whole nation was in a ferment; they dreaded the dangers to which their liberties would be expoſed, from the ſcandalous fleecings of a repacious miniſter. They waited with the greateſt impatience for the next ſeſſion of parliament, which they believed was to determine whether they were to be free men or ſlaves. They had indeed other reaſons for complaint; ſuch as the French were actually fortifying Dunkirk, contrary to treaty; the merchants had got no redreſs for the depredations of the Spaniards; the commerce of the kingdom was declining; the only trade which flouriſhed was the traffic in Change-Alley.

On the 16th of January 1733, the parliament met, and the ſeſſion was opened. The reduction of the army was ſo warmly inſiſted upon, that the miniſtry

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and injurious perſonalities. In a debate on the 12th of February, between Mr. Pulteney and Mr. Pelham, a challenge enſued, and Mr. Pulteney immediately went out of the houſe; but before Mr. Pelham went out, the ſpeaker was informed of it, upon which the ſerjeant at arms was ordered to recall Mr. Pulteney, and the houſe obliged them to drop their deſign.

Mr. Pulteney bore a conſiderable ſhare in all the debates againſt the miniſter, for whom he was in reality an over-match; his arguments were in general, ſtated with accuracy and preciſion; his points were ſolid and concluſive; his language was nervous, free, and elegant; and all theſe were admirably ſupported by his unfathomable wiſdom and dauntleſs intrepidity. Theſe very eminent qualities occaſioned his diſgrace at court this year. The king one day called for the council book, and ſtruck with his own hand off the liſt of privy-counſellors, the name of William Pulteney, Eſq; and he further ordered him to be put out of all commiſſions of the peace, and every office to which he [the king] had a right to extend his authority. This incident gained Mr. Pulteney great honour, though the contrary was doubtleſs intended him; but the maxim was, thoſe whom the court deſpiſed, the people idolized.

were

were obliged to enforce this unconſtitutional burden, with having recourſe to the old phantom of the pretender. The commiſſioners appointed by the treaty of Seville, to ſettle the Spaniſh depredations, had done nothing, which occaſioned ſtrong debates. An act was paſſed for the better ſecurity and encouraging the trade of the Britiſh ſugar colonies in America. Sir Robert Walpole, carried his point of borrowing from the ſinking fund 500,000l. after a violent diſpute, in which the iniquity of pillaging a ſacred depoſit, ſolemnly appropriated to the diſcharge of the national debt, was diſplayed by Mr. Pulteney and others. The miniſtry feared nothing; ſecure of their numbers, their ſucceſs was invinciole. Great preparations were made for ſupporting and oppoſing the exciſe ſcheme, which Sir Robert Walpole ſaid he would bring into the houſe on the 14th of March, when all the members throughout the kingdom were ordered to attend. When the important day arrived, all the avenues leading to the houſe, were filled with people, waiting to hear the iſſue of this memorable event. The members on both ſides were ready, and waited with impatience for the conteſt. At laſt Sir Robert Walpole broached his deſign. He previouſly took notice of the arts which had been uſed to prejudice his ſcheme before it was known; on the clamours which he ſaid had taken riſe, among ſmugglers and fradulent dealers; that the ſcheme he was going to propoſe would remove all thoſe frauds, and add 2 or 300,000l. a year to the revenue; he declared he had no intention to promote a general exciſe: then he propoſed to join the laws of exciſe, and thoſe of the cuſtoms together, that the further ſubſidy of three farthings per pound, charged upon imported tobacco, ſhould ſtill be levied at the Cuſtom-Houſe, and payable to his majeſty's civil-liſt as before; that then tobacco ſhould be lodged in warehouſes appointed for that purpoſe, by the commiſſioners

miſſioners of the exciſe; that the keepers of the warehouſes, who were to be appointed by the commiſſioners, ſhould have one lock and key, and the importer another, until he found vent for it either at home or abroad; that if it was exported it ſhould firſt be weighed at the Cuſtom-Houſe, and diſcharged of the three farthings per pound; if it was for home conſumption, it ſhould be delivered in the preſence of the warehouſe keeper to the purchaſer, upon his paying the inland duty of 4d. per pound; that all penalties and forfeitures, ſo far as they belonged to the crown, ſhould be applied to the uſe of the public; and appeals as in all other caſes of exciſe, ſhould be determined by two or three judges nominated by the king. This was the ſubſtance of the famous exciſe ſcheme; in favour of which Sir Robert Walpole moved, that the duties and ſubſidies on tobacco ſhould ceaſe after the 24th of June. He was ſharply anſwered by alderman Perry, one of the members for the city of London, who accuſed him with having miſrepreſented the frauds, and making falſe calculations; that his ſcheme would ruin the factors, and not prevent thoſe frauds he complained of; that the funds, which did not exceed 40,000l. *per annum*, might be aboliſhed by the laws in being; that the ſcheme could not augment the revenue, but would be deſtructive to trade, and dangerous to the liberty of the ſubject, and as tending to promote a general exciſe. Other ſenſible members affirmed this ſcheme, ſhould it be carried into execution, would produce an additional ſwarm of exciſe officers and warehouſe-keepers, who would be dependents on the crown, and farther influence the freedom of elections: that the traders would become ſlaves to the exciſemen and warehouſe-keepers, as they would be debarred from all acceſs to their commodities, except at certain hours, when attended by thoſe officers; that the merchant, for every quantity of tobacco he could ſell, would be

be obliged to get a permit from the office, which he could not do without trouble, expence, and delay; and ſhould this ſcheme be carried into law, it would in all probability be uſed as a precedent for introducing exciſe-laws into all branches of the revenue; in which caſe the liberty of Great-Britain would be no more. Sir William Wyndham drew a parallel between Sir Robert Walpole and thoſe famous rapacious miniſters, Epſom and Durley, who, knowing their maſter was inſatiable in his deſire for money, concluded, that no ſcheme would be more agreeable to him than that which would fill his coffers, and drain the purſes of his ſubjects; but ſaid he, they loſt their heads by it as ſoon as his ſucceſſor came to the throne. The lobby, the court of requeſts, Weſtminſter-hall, and every part near the houſe, continued ſtill to be crowded by a vaſt concourſe of people. Sir Robert Walpole took notice of the houſe being beſet by multitudes, which, ſaid he, whatever gentlemen may call them, ſuch as a modeſt multitude or humble ſuppliants, he knew whom the law called ſturdy beggars, and they who brought the people thither, could not be certain but they might behave in the ſame manner. This ſpeech threw the houſe in a flame. Sir John Barnard immediately reſented this inſinuation; he ſaid, that merchants of character had a right to come to the lobby and court of requeſts, in order to ſollicit their friends and acquaintance againſt any ſcheme that was prejudicial to their commerce: when he came into the houſe, he ſaw none but ſuch as deſerved the name of ſturdy beggars as little as the miniſter himſelf. After a deſperate diſpute the motion was carried by a majority of ſixty-one voices; and a bill was produced; againſt which petitions were preſented by the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council of London; and the towns of Nottingham and Coventry. The miniſter began to fear the reſentment of an injured and enraged people, ſhould he incur

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their diſpleaſure too far; he had been inſulted in coming to the houſe, and his life was in iminent danger, had it not been for Mr. Cunningham, a Scotch member, who reſcued him by drawing his ſword; for which ſeaſonable aſſiſtance the king made him governor of Jamaica. He trembled for his own ſafety, and this made him drop his deſign, which it is certain he might have carried into execution, had he no other oppoſition to encounter but that within doors. The ſecond reading of the bill was put off till the 12th of June. This memorable miſcarriage was celebrated with every kind of public demonſtration of joy in London and Weſtminſter; the monument was illuminated; and in one of the bonfires, the miniſter was ſolemnly burned in effigy, with all the marks of indignation and abhorrence.

An attempt was made in the houſe of lords, to make an enquiry into the affairs of the South-Sea Company, who were ſuſpected to have been guilty of fradulent practices. The miniſtry endeavoured to ſtifle this enquiry, and at length effected their deſign; but it was obſerved, that of the 57 peers who voted on that ſide the queſtion, 46 were ſuch as enjoyed preferment in the church, commiſſioners in the army, or civil employments under the government. They were alſo ſucceſsful in a bill for miſapplying part of the produce of the ſinking fund, after a violent conteſt. On the 11th of June, the day before the exciſe bill was to be read, the king put an end to the ſeſſion with a ſpeech, in one part of which he was very ſevere on thoſe whom, he ſaid, fomented diviſions.

This year the prince of Orange eſpouſed the princeſs Anne, the king's eldeſt daughter, with whom the parliament gave a portion of 80,000l. A great number of proteſtants fled from Germany into England, and were tranſported to Georgia, in order

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to ſettle in that colony, for which purpoſe the parliament had granted 10,000l. General Oglethorpe was appointed governor of it, and he took infinite pains to plant it *.

On the 17th of January 1734, the king opened the ſeſſion of parliament with a ſpeech, in which he mentioned the critical ſituation of affairs in Europe ‡. A motion was made, that the letters and inſtructions ſent to the Britiſh miniſters at Paris and Madrid, relating to the treaty of Seville, be laid before the houſe, but it was over-ruled after a hard ſtruggle; 1800 men were added to the number of land-forces after a violent debate. The members in the oppoſition were by this time ſo irritated againſt the miniſtry, that they reſolved to

* The Dutch were greatly alarmed by an incredible number of ſea-worms which eat into the piles and timber-work that ſupported their dykes; they faſted and prayed with uncommon zeal in terror of this calamity, which they knew not how to remove in any other manner; at length they were delivered by a hard froſt which deſtroyed their enemies.

Mr. Diedem, plenipotentiary from the elector of Hanover, at Vienna, received in the name of his maſter, from the hands of the emperor, the inveſtiture of Bremen and Verden.

‡ The king of Poland dying on the 1ſt. of February, involved Europe in a freſh ſcene of troubles. Two parties were formed on this occaſion, the one for Auguſtus the elector of Saxony, ſon to the late king, in whoſe intereſt were the Imperialiſts and Ruſſians; and the other for Staniſlaus, father-in-law to the French king, by whoſe interpoſition he was proclaimed. The French made war againſt the Imperialiſts, and were ſucceſsful on the Rhine, and in Italy; and their fleet appeared in the Baltic. The Britiſh miniſtry were utterly averſe to war, while the Spaniards were determined upon nothing elſe: their miniſter delivered a memorial in London, ſignifying that the territories of Don Carlos, had been inſulted by the imperialiſts, and it was expected the king of Great Britain would, as guarantee to thoſe territories, procure ſatisfaction.

The earl of Cheſterfield, had by this time reſigned his ſtaff of lord-ſteward of the houſhold, and renounced all connection with the miniſtry. The duke of Bolton, and lord Cobham, had been deprived of the command of their regiments, becauſe they refuſed to concur with every project of the adminiſtration.

poſe all court proceedings implicitly, in which their ſole aim was to remove from the confidence of the ſovereign, a miniſter whoſe conduct they deemed prejudicial to the intereſt and liberties of their country. The moſt memorable debate was on an attempt to repeal the ſeptennial act: the beſt ſpeakers on both ſides exerted themſelves on this occaſion, and the beſt conſtitutional arguments were offered by the country-party *, but the courtiers out did them, by

* Though it is not our intention to recite at large the ſpeeches of he members, yet we are certain the candid reader will forgive our tranſcribing the latter part of Sir William Wyndham's excellent ſpeech on this ſubject, as it throws no ſmall degree of light on our recapitulation of the events of theſe times. " Let us, ſaid he, ſuppoſe a man abandoned to all notions of virtue and honour, of no great family, and but a mean fortune, raiſed to be chief miniſter of ſtate, by the concurrence of many whimſical events; afraid, or unwilling to truſt any but creatures of his own making, loſt to all ſenſe of ſhame and reputation, ignorant of his country's true intereſt, purſuing no aim but that of aggrandizing himſelf and his favourites; in foreign affairs, truſting none but thoſe who, from the nature of their education, cannot poſſibly be qualified for the ſervice of their country, or give weight and credit to their negociations. Let us ſuppoſe the true intereſt of the nation, by ſuch means, neglected or miſunderſtood, her honour tarniſhed, her importance loſt, her trade inſulted, her merchants plundered, and her ſailors murdered; and all theſe circumſtances overlooked, leſt his adminiſtration ſhould be endangered. Suppoſe him next poſſeſſed of immenſe wealth, the plunderer of the nation, with a parliament chiefly compoſed of members whoſe ſeats are purchaſed, and whoſe votes are bought at the expence of the public treaſure. In ſuch a parliament, ſuppoſe all attempts made to inquire into his conduct, or to relieve the nation from the diſtreſs which has been intailed upon it by his adminiſtration: ſuppoſe him ſcreened by a corrupt majority of his creatures, whom he retains in daily pay, or engages in his particular intereſt, by diſtributing among them thoſe poſts and places which ought never to be beſtowed upon any but for the good of the public. Let him plume himſelf upon his ſcandalous victory, becauſe he has obtained a parliament, like a picked jury, ready to acquit him at all adventures. Let us ſuppoſe him domineering with inſolence over all the men of antient families, over all the men of ſenſe, figure, or fortune, in the nation: as he has

by mere dint of number, and baffled the deſign. The ſame fate attended a bill for ſecuring the freedom of parliaments by limiting the number of officers in the houſe of commons, an evil that loudly called for redreſs. A Bill to prevent the infamous practices of ſtock-jobbing for three years paſſed through both houſes. It had been fallaciouſly carried on under colour of wagers, and was apprehended to be more pernicious in it's conſequences than gaming. 5000l. *per annum*, was granted to the princeſs of Orange during her life; and on the 22d. of April the ſeſſion was cloſed, and the parliament diſſolved*.

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has no virtue of his own, ridiculing it in others, and endeavouring to deſtroy or corrupt it in all. With ſuch a miniſter, and ſuch a parliament, let us ſuppoſe a caſe which I hope will never happen: a prince upon the throne uninformed, ignorant, and unacquainted with the inclinations and true intereſt of his people, weak, capricious, tranſported with unbounded ambition, and poſſeſſed with inſatiable avarice. I hope ſuch a caſe will never occur; but, as it poſſibly may, could any greater curſe happen to a nation, than ſuch a prince on the throne, adviſed, and ſolely governed by ſuch a miniſter, and that miniſter ſupported by ſuch a parliament. The nature of mankind cannot be altered by human laws; the exiſtence of ſuch a prince, or ſuch a miniſter, we cannot prevent by act of parliament; but the exiſtence of ſuch a parliament I think we may prevent; as it is much more likely to exiſt, and may do more miſchief, while the ſeptennial law remains in force, than if it were repealed: therefore I am heartily for its being repealed."

* The Ruſſian and Saxon army beſieged Danzic, in hopes of ſecuring Staniſlaus, who had fled thither; but the place was covered by the French fleet, and defended by a French and Poliſh garriſon, who made an obſtinate defence; at length it ſurrendered, but Staniſlaus eſcaped in diſguiſe; Auguſtus, by this time had been proclaimed king of Poland. On the Rhine, the French bore down all oppoſition; their army was commanded by the duke of Berwick, who was killed before Philipſburgh, while the Imperial army, commanded by prince Eugene, durſt not attempt to relieve it. In Italy, Don Carlos, at the head of the Spaniſh troops, was as ſucceſsful as he could wiſh; he took poſſeſſion of Naples, and was declared king. The French and Sardinians defeated the Imperialiſts with great ſlaughter at Parma, where they loſt their general;

The French miniſtry paid ſo little reſpect to the Britiſh court at this time, that they publiſhed an edict, commanding all the Britiſh ſubjects in France, to quit the kingdom in fifteen days, or inliſt in ſome of the Iriſh regiments, on pain of being impriſoned or ſent to the gallies. The contents of this edict were executed with the utmoſt rigour. The priſons of Paris were in a moment crowded with Britiſh ſubjects, who were ſurpriſed and cut off from any communication with their friends, and muſt have ſtarved, had they not been relieved by the charity of the Janſeniſts. The earl of Waldegrave, the Britiſh ambaſſador at Paris, ſtrongly remonſtrated to the French miniſtry, againſt this unheard of outrage; at length the priſoners were ſet at liberty by another edict, which explained away the meaning of the former. The Britiſh court at this time did not receive any extraordinary marks of reſpect from any of the European courts, which the oppoſition imputed to a ſpirit of puſilanimity.

The electing of a new parliament cauſed great ſtruggles all over the nation, but miniſterial influence gained the aſcendent, and the new parliament appeared with the complexion of the old one.

On the 14th of January 1735, the ſeſſion of parliament was opened, and Mr. Onſlow was choſen ſpeaker,

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neral; but a new general, with a large reinforcement, coming to the Imperial army, they ſurpriſed the French quarters, ſeized upon their baggage, and marſhal Broglio with difficulty eſcaped in his ſhirt. A few days after, theſe armies came to an obſtinate action, near Guaſtalla, which laſted about ſix hours, and near 8000 men were ſlain; but the French, who gained the victory, made no advantage of it. During theſe tranſactions, England adhered to a neutrality, but continued to equip conſiderable armaments: Sir John Norris who was never a ſucceſsful commander, was placed at the head of great part of this naval force. Towards the cloſe of the year, a negociation was entered into at the Hague, for the re-eſtabliſhing of peace. A treaty of commerce was this year concluded with Ruſſia.

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The leading members of both parties were the ſame, and the ſame meaſures were purſued as on the former ſyſtem. The king told them in his ſpeech, he had undertaken to mediate the differences between the powers at war, and had concluded a treaty with the king of Denmark; and that while Germany continued in war, Great Britain muſt be more or leſs affected with its conſequences; 36,000 men were granted for the ſea ſervice, for this year, and 22,744 men for the land ſervice. After many debates, in which the arguments of the miniſtry, to raiſe this extraordinary ſupply, were entirely refuted; and their weak conduct expoſed in deſtroying the balance of power, by aſſiſting Spain againſt the emperor, while France grew more formidable. When the ſubſidy treaty with Denmark came under conſideration, by which it appeared that 56,250l. was to be paid to the Dane, all the leaders in the oppoſition exclaimed againſt it, as unreaſonable and unneceſſary. They obſerved that the balance of power, was the only plea that could be urged; but then the other powers, ſaid they, are more intereſted in it than we; and when it is really in danger, they will engage in its defence, without being paid for it; but ſhould Great Britain be the firſt to take the alarm, at every trifling rupture, and immediately offer bribes and penſions to all the princes in Europe, the whole expence of maintaining that balance would fall on ourſelves. However, on putting the queſtion, the majority voted the foreign ſubſidy.

The moſt extraordinary tranſaction of this ſeſſion, was a debate on the election of the ſixteen Scotch peers. A petition was delivered into the houſe of lords, by the duke of Bedford, and ſigned by the dukes of Hamilton, Queenſberry, and Montroſe; the earls of Dundonald, Marchmont, and Stair, repreſenting that illegal practices had been uſed in the courſe of this election.

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The partiſans of the miniſtry would fain have ſtifled this enquiry, but the lords in the oppoſition would not ſuffer them. After ſome debate the petitioners were ordered to lay their grievances before the houſe, which they did the next day to this effect; that the liſt of the ſixteen Peers for Scotland, had been framed previous to the election, by perſons in high truſt under the crown: that this liſt was ſhewn to the peers, as a liſt approved by the crown, and was called the *king*'s *liſt*, from which there was to be no variation, unleſs to make way for one or two particular Peers, on condition they ſhould conform to meaſures: that peers were ſolicitated to vote for this liſt, without the liberty of making any alteration: that endeavours were uſed to engage peers to vote for this liſt, by promiſe of penſions and offices, civil and military, for themſelves and relations, as well as by offers of money: that ſums were given for this purpoſe: that penſions, offices, and releaſes of debts owing to the crown, were actually granted to peers who concurred in voting for this liſt, and to their relations: and that on the day of election, a battalion of his majeſty's troops were drawn up in the Abbey-court of Edinburgh, contrary to cuſtom, and without any apparent cauſe, but that of overawing the electors. A violent diſpute enſued, but at length the whole was conſigned to oblivion: the complaint was voted unſatisfactory, and the petition rejected; upon which a vigorous proteſt of thirty three peers was entered into. The ſeſſion was cloſed on the 15th of May, and the king immediately ſet out for Hanover.

The good underſtanding between the powers of Spain and Portugal, was broke by the Portugueſe ambaſſador at Madrid, where his domeſtics reſcued a criminal, from the officers of juſtice, upon which they were all ſent to priſon, by the order of the Spaniſh king. The king of Portugal made repriſals on the

the domeſtics of the Spaniſh ambaſſador at Liſbon. The two kings were incenſed, and the two ambaſſadors withdrew abruptly. The king of Spain aſſembled his army on the frontiers of Portugal; the king of Portugal had recourſe to the king of Great Britain, who ſent a powerful ſquadron to Liſbon, under the command of Sir John Norris. This ſtep was ſuch a check upon the deſigns of the Spaniſh monarch, that it immediately produced an accommodation.

On the 15th of January 1736, the houſes of parliament were opened, and the national debt was taken into conſideration; when it was found to amount to 47,938,298l. It having appeared to a committee, that ſpirituous liquors were pernicious to the health and morals of the people, a bill was brought in for laying a duty of 20s. *per* gallon on all ſpirituous liquors; and that every perſon who retailed them ſhould pay 50s. annually for a licence; but a clauſe was added in favour of punch, at the inſtance of the merchants. This bill having paſſed, the ſum of 70,000l. was granted to the king, to make good the deficiencies in the civil liſt, which this act might occaſion. The king was impowered to borrow 600,000l. for the ſervice of the preſent year, to be charged on the ſinking fund; but theſe monies were not granted without a warm and plauſible diſpute. A bill was brought in, praying that the quakers might be relieved from paying tythes, &c. as expoſing them to grievious perſecutions. After a ſtrong debate it paſſed the houſe of commons, but was thrown out by the lords. A bill to prevent ſmuggling paſſed both houſes, after a violent conteſt. In February the king ſent two members of his privy-council, with a meſſage to the prince of Wales, propoſing a match between him and the princeſs of Saxe-gotha, which being agreeable to the prince, the marriage was celebrated on the 27th of April. Mr. George, now lord Lyttleton, Mr. Pulteney, and Mr. Pitt, pro-

pronounced elegant ſpeeches on this occaſion in favour of the prince, and his conſort; and an act was paſſed for naturalizing the princeſs. On the 20th of May the ſeſſion was cloſed, and the king ſet out for Hanover, having appointed the queen regent.

A new poſt of honour was this year erected by the king, entitled, field-marſhal of the armies of Great Britain. Many diſturbances happened in different parts of the kingdom, occaſioned by the want of a proper civil government; but the moſt remarkable was at Edinburgh, where at the execution of a ſmuggler, Porteous, the captain of the city guard, ordered his men to fire among the populace; ſeveral innocent perſons being killed, he was tried for his life, and being found guilty of murder was condemned, but the queen reſpited him; which the mob being informed of, they forced open the priſon doors, took away the delinquent, and hanged him on a dyer's poſt. The queen and the adminiſtration reſented this outrage, and the parliament diſſabled Alexander Wilſon, Eſq; lord provoſt of Edinburgh, from holding any office under the government, and obliged that city to pay 2000l. to the widow of Porteous *.

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* This year the belligerants on the continent agreed to peace: Staniſlaus abidicated the crown of Poland, and Auguſtus was univerſally acknowledged king. Don Carlos was crowned king of Sicily; and the Spaniſh troops evacuated the Italian provinces, ſubject to the houſe of Auſtria. Lorraine was ceded to France, who guarantied the pragmatic ſanction; the duke of Lorraine was made duke of Tuſcany, and he married the archdutcheſs Maria Thereſa, the eldeſt daughter to the emperor.

A war broke out this year between the Ruſſians and the Turks, in which the emperor was obliged to take part, in conſequence of a treaty offenſive and defenſive, which he had concluded with the Czarina ſome time ago. The Ruſſians reduced Aſoph on the black ſea, and over-run great part of Crim Tartary. This war continued till the year 1739, and then the parties made peace.

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The king being indiſpoſed, in conſequence of the fatigue he had undergone in his tempeſtuous paſſage from Holland to England, the parliament was opened by commiſſion, and a ſpeech made by the lord chancellor. 10,000 men were granted for the ſea ſervice, and almoſt 18,000 for the land ſervice; the money was raiſed by the malt and land taxes, and a million borrowed from the ſinking fund. The principal ſubject of debate was a motion made in the houſe of commons by Mr. Pulteney, that an addreſs be preſented to the king, requeſting that the ſum of 100,000l. *per annum* be ſettled on the prince of Wales, inſtead of 50,000l. in the ſame manner, which his majeſty enjoyed when he was prince of Wales. The miniſtry ſtrenuouſly oppoſed this meaſure, becauſe the prince of Wales, with the duke of Argyll, had by this time joined the oppoſition, and very much embarraſſed Sir Robert Walpole. It was clearly proved by thoſe who ſupported the motion, that 50,000l. was not ſufficient to defray the prince's annual expences; that including the revenues of Cornwall, all he received did not exceed 52,000l. when the taxes and fees were deducted; that the king himſelf had computed the expence of the prince's houſhold to amount to 63,000l. *per annum*; that the produce of the civil liſt exceeded 900,000l. yearly; 100,000l. more than had ever been granted to the late king: they obſerved that the parliament added 140,000l. annually for acts of charity and bounty, and for ſecret ſervice; which laſt article, in the late reign, had increaſed prodigiouſly, when vaſt ſums had been given for purpoſes which nobody underſtood, and to perſons whom nobody knew; and that they allowed 100,000l. *per annum*, for the main-

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The famous captain and miniſter prince Eugene, died this year, at Vienna.

In England, the worthy lord chancellor Talbot died: he was ſucceded on the bench by lord Hardwicke.

tainance of the prince of Wales. The motion was rejected after a long and warm debate. Lord Cateret in the houſe of lords, made a motion of the ſame kind, which gave riſe to a fierce and keen diſpute, on the ſame arguments as in the commons; but it met with no better fate. The miniſter finding himſelf ridiculed, his errors, and all the blemiſhes of his adminiſtration, expoſed in print, he reſolved to check the liberty of the preſs. A bill was brought in for limiting the number of playhouſes, and ſubjecting all new plays to a licence from the lord chamberlain; becauſe the miniſter had been ridiculed, and ſatirized in ſome theatrical pieces, which had met with an uncommon good reception from the people. Lord Cheſterfield oppoſed their oppreſſive meaſure in an admirable ſpeech, proving that the licenſing of plays was a reſtraint on the liberty of the preſs; though his elocution was moſt deſervedly admired, yet his arguments vaniſhed before miniſterial influence, and the bill paſſed into law. On the 21ſt. of January 1737, the ſeſſion was cloſed.

The motion which was made in both houſes of parliament for augmenting the prince of Wales's ſalary, rendered him offenſive to the king, who had before looked ſomewhat coldly on him, on ſuſpicion that he favoured the members of the oppoſition, and was forming connexions no way favourable to his miniſtry. In the month of Auguſt, an open breach happened in the royal family; the princeſs of Wales had advanced to the laſt month of her pregnancy before the king or queen were made acquainted with it, and at the time when her labour-pains were ſuppoſed to be approaching, he hurried her from Hampton-Court to St. James's palace, ſtill keeping her condition unknown to the king: about two hours after her arrival ſhe was delivered of a princeſs. When the king was apprized of this event, he ſent a meſſage to the prince, ſigni-

ſignifying his diſpleaſure at his conduct, which he conſidered as an indignity offered to himſelf and the queen. The prince in ſeveral ſubmiſſive letters endeavoured to deprecate his majeſty's anger; the princeſs joined her intreaties; they implored the queen's mediation; but all their ſupplications had no effect; the king's anger increaſed; he was impoſed upon by thoſe who found their intereſt in fomenting this difference. In a little time he ſent another meſſage to the prince, importing, that his conduct for ſome time had been void of all real duty; that until he withdrew from his confidence, ſome perſons by whoſe advice he was directed, he ſhould not reſide in the palace; and that as ſoon as it could be done, without prejudice to the princeſs, he ſhould remove from it with all his family. In obedience to this order he retired to Kew, and afterwards lived at Cliefdon and Norfolk-houſes, like a private gentleman; cultivating the polite arts with uncommon aſſiduity, beloved, revered, and reſpected, by the whole nation; virtuous, religious, and beneficient; an affectionate huſband, a true friend, and a kind maſter; he poſſeſſed an enlivening genius, that like the beam of glory, added new luſtre, and kindled freſh warmth by its appearance; his countenance was chearful, his perſon graceful, and all his manners affable and engaging; none ever went from his preſence diſſatisfied, and all ranks met him with ardour and affection: he was the minion of a free people, and the companion of the wiſe and honeſt, by whom he was inceſſantly courted; he diſtinguiſhed himſelf without offering the leaſt indecency, as a ſon or ſubject to his royal parents, with many noble and worthy patriots, by oppoſing the oppreſſive and rapacious deſigns of the miniſter.

Whatever cauſe the king might have for his anger with the prince, it cannot but be lamented that all perſonal interviews were forbid. In the month of

November queen Caroline was taken ill, ſhe languiſhed a few days, and on the 20th ſhe died of a mortification in her bowels, in the 55th year of her age, univerſally regretted. She enjoyed the eſteem of the people in this age of party, with uncommon unanimity, not a little owing to her ſagacity, mildneſs, and numerous virtues. In a word, ſhe was an amiable pattern of conjugal felicity and affection. It was a misfortune that the prince of Wales could not be admitted into the preſence of the queen during her laſt moments, to receive her forgiveneſs and bleſſing.

The Spaniards ever ſince the treaty of Seville, continued their depradations; they ſeized by force of arms all Engliſh traders, for logwood to Campechey bay, or for ſalt to the iſland of Totugas, impriſoned the crews, and confiſcated the cargoes. Theſe inceſſant inſults, and diſtreſſes, inflamed the Britiſh nation; the merchants loudly complained of theſe outrages, and the people cried out for vengeance. The miniſter was cold and timorous, he knew that a war would take away the treaſure from being employed upon domeſtic purpoſes, to the equipping of armaments; that he ſhould then be involved in difficulties, and his adminiſtration endangered; therefore he uſed his utmoſt efforts to prevent a war, by all the arts of chicanery and procraſtination.

On the 24th of January 1738, the ſeſſion of parliament was opened. The ſtanding army was excellently diſputed, but at length impoſed. The Spaniſh depredations fell next under their conſideration; they received the petitions of the merchants, from the principal trading towns in England, heard their counſel, and examined evidence, by which it appeared the moſt wanton and amazing acts of barbarity and injuſtice had been committed by the Spaniſh guarda coſtas. Mr. Pulteney demonſtrated from treaties, the

the right which the Engliſh had to trade to Campechey and Tortugas; he expatiated on numberleſs circumſtances of cruelty, he expoſed the puſillanimity of the miniſter and his loquatious and trifling negociations; he moved for ſuch reſolutions, as would ſhew the reſentment of an injured nation, and the vigour of a Britiſh parliament; but it was carried in the negative by the power of the miniſter: however, an addreſs to the king was procured, praying him that he would do juſtice to the injured nation. Mr. Pulteney brought in a bill, for the more effectually ſecuring and encouraging the trade of his majeſty's ſubjects in America; it was ſupported by the beſt orators, with great eloquence and ſatire; but the power of the miniſter conſigned it to oblivion. On the 20th of May the ſeſſion was cloſed.

On the 4th of June the princeſs of Wales was delivered of a ſon, who is now the ſovereign of theſe realms; his birth was celebrated with great rejoicings, and the king received addreſſes of congratulation on this occaſion. The prince of Wales ſtill continued under his diſpleaſure, and an order was publiſhed in the Gazette, forbidding all perſons to appear at St. James's, who viſited the prince. This order only ſerved to ſtrengthen the oppoſition, at the head of which the prince publicly put himſelf. Norfolk-houſe in St. James's ſquare, where he reſided, became the faſhionable court, and it was the great reſort of all the political part of the kingdom, as well as incredible numbers of the well wiſhers to the proteſtant ſucceſſion, from their avowed hatred to the miniſter and his meaſures.

About the latter end of June, admiral Haddock ſailed for Spain with a ſtrong ſquadron, and it was hoped that his appearance in the Mediterranean, would give weight to the Britiſh negociations, at Madrid now on foot; but he was unprovided with land forces, to commit any act of hoſtility, nor had he any orders: there-

therefore he remained at Gibraltar, in a ſtate of inactivity; while every corner of the kingdom continued to reſound with exclamations againſt the miniſter.

In the month of October, the prince and princeſs of Wales, ſet out from Cliefdon houſe in Bucks, for Bath and Briſtol: they were received with raptures, and the moſt diſtinguiſhed honours wherever they came; and their virtuous condeſcentions endeared them to the people, who teſtified by every poſſible means, the moſt warm and ſincere marks of reſpect and affection.

On the 14th of January 1739, a convention was ſigned at Madrid, by the Britiſh miniſter, Mr. Benjamin Keene, wherein it was ſtipulated that plenipotentiaries, ſhould ſettle the differences between the two nations, and the king of Spain ſhould pay to king George 95,000l. as a balance due to the crown and to the ſubjects of Great-Britain. The principles on which this convention was founded were indefenſible, ſo that the people increaſed every day in their clamours againſt the miniſter. The Spaniards at this time made an unfair claim of 68,000l. on the South-Sea company. Every thing tended to render the goverment odious; the brave Haddock was ſuffered to languiſh in the Mediterranean, and the Engliſh ſhips in America, to continue inactive: none dared to avenge their country's wrongs. The people were exaſperated againſt the miniſtry and the Spaniards beyond any degree of credibility. *No ſearch! no ſearch!* was the general cry.

The parliament had been ordered to meet on the 18th of January, but the ſeſſion was not opened till the firſt of February, which delay evidently ſhewed the diſtreſs of the miniſter. The convention fell firſt under their cognizance; Sir Robert Walpole defended this offſpring of his phlegmatic genius, with ſpecious arguments; he ſaid that the peace, which it precluded, would be more advantageous to Great-

Britain,

Britain, than any which could be procured, by the moſt ſucceſsful war; that it would be hereafter conſidered as the moſt glorious period of our hiſtory, and counſel; and laſtly, he plaiſtered it over with the moſt extravagant encomiums. The merchants of London, and the principal towns in England, preſented petitions againſt it. No words can expreſs the alarmed and provoked condition of the merchants, when they ſaw the copies of this convention, which were printed by authority. The eyes of the whole kingdom were now turned on the houſe of commons. Both parties in this houſe prepared with eagerneſs for the diſpute. On that day which the debate was to come on, 400 members had taken their ſeats by eight o'clock in the morning. On the 8th of March, Mr. Horatio Walpole launched out in praiſe of the convention, and moved for an addreſs of approbation to the king. The merits of it were next ſharply and firmly diſputed by the members in the oppoſition, who were joined by the adherents of the prince of Wales, and he himſelf was in the gallery. Sir Thomas Sanderſon, treaſurer to the prince, now earl of Scarborough, obſerved that the Spaniards, by the convention, had procured a general releaſe, inſtead of giving us reparation; they had allowed the word *ſatisfaction*, to be mentioned only once in the treaty; the Spaniſh pirate who had cut off the ear of captain Jenkins*, and

* Captain Jenkins was commander of one of thoſe veſſels which had been boarded by the Spaniſh guarda coſtas. His ſhip was rummaged on pretence of ſearching for contraband commodities, but finding nothing that might juſtify their ſearch, they inſulted Jenkins in the moſt abuſive language, they tore off one of his ears, wounded him in ſeveral places, and tortured him with the moſt ſhocking cruelties; they ordered him to carry his ear to his king, and to tell him that they would ſerve him in the ſame manner if they had the opportunity. This bold ſeaman was examined at the bar of the houſe of commons, where his ear was produced: he

and had uſed the moſt inſulting expreſſions againſt the king, was ſuffered to enjoy his lawleſs rapine and plunder, and to remain a living teſtimony of the cowardly tameneſs and mean ſubmiſſion of Great-Britain. Lord Gage, who was ſenſible, keen, and ſarcaſtic, ſaid, the loſſes ſuſtained by the Spaniſh depredations amounted to 340,000l. but the commiſſary by a ſtroke of his pen reduced the demand to 200,000l. then 45,000l. was ſtruck off for prompt payment; next 60,000l. was allotted for the payment of a pretended debt due to Spain for deſtroying her fleet, by Sir George Byng, though it appeared by inſtructions on the table, that Spain had already received ample ſatisfaction on that head. When theſe deductions were made, the balance was only 95,000l. and the king of Spain inſiſted on the South-Sea company's paying him 68,000l. as a debt due to him, on one head of accounts, though it appeared in other articles, that the king of Spain was indebted to them upwards of a million, over and above the demands. Mr. William Pitt, exclaimed againſt the inhuman tyranny of Spain, and the fallacy of the convention. Mr. Lyttleton inveighed againſt the ſpeech of Walpole; after perſuading us, ſaid he, to any peace, good or bad, by pointing out the dangers of war, dangers I by no means allow to be ſuch as he repreſents them, he crowned all theſe terrors with the name of the pretender; he affirmed, that had the miniſters proceeded

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he was interrogated by a member what he thought, when he was in the hands of thoſe barbarians; to which he replied, that he recommended his ſoul to God, and his cauſe to his country. This noble reply, the ſight of his ear, his detail of his ſufferings, and the indignities offered to the ſovereign, threw the houſe in a flame; this brave man's wrongs filled the members of the oppoſition with indignation, and all, except the adherents of the miniſter, who ſaw nor felt any ſpring of agitation or public ſpirit, but at his command, pitied his condition, and loudly exclaimed againſt the ſupineneſs of the miniſtry, and the injuries of their country.

according

according to the intentions of the parliament, there would have been, either a ſolid peace or an open war, before this time, but inſtead of either of theſe, the diſpute was referred to plenipotentiaries; "would you Sir, ſaid he, ſubmit to a reference, whether you may travel unmoleſted from your houſe in town, to your houſe in the country? your right is clear and undeniable; why would you have it diſcuſſed? but much leſs would you refer it, if two of your judges belonged to a gang, which has often ſtopped and robbed you in your way thither before". Mr. Pulteney, and Sir William Wyndham, were not behind hand in this debate; they attacked the conceſſions of the miniſtry with a patriot zeal hardly to be equalled; and they ſpared no eloquence againſt the inſolence of Spain. At length the motion was carried in favour of the miniſtry, by a majority of only 28; which conſidering the power of the miniſter, gave great ſpirits to the oppoſition; and though they did not carry this point, they failed not to prognoſticate his downfal to be near at hand. Sir William Wyndham, roſe, and made one of the fineſt ſpeeches which had ever been pronounced in that houſe: he concluded his pathetic remonſtrance with this emphatical prayer: "I ſincerely pray to Almighty God, who has ſo often wonderfully protected theſe kingdoms, that he will graciouſly continue his protection over them, by preventing us from that impending danger, which threatens the nation from without, and likewiſe from that impending danger, which threatens over conſtitution from within.". The miniſter in his reply deviated from his uſual moderation; he attacked Sir William with perſonal abuſe, and he branded all the members of the oppoſition as traitors. The parties were inflamed to ſuch a degree of animoſity, that about ſixty members of the oppoſition, among whom were all the chiefs, actually ſeceded from the houſe, and retired to their country ſeats,

and elſewhere, and were looked upon by the nation, as martyrs to the liberties of the people.

In the houſe of peers the convention was debated with greater abilities; Mr. Keene's conduct was ſeverely cenſured. An act paſſed for granting the Duke of Cumberland 15,000l. *per annum*; and 24,000l. to the princeſſes Amelia, Carolina, Mary, and Louiſa. The duke of Newcaſtle then produced the ſubſidy treaty, which the king had concluded with the king of Denmark, whereby he had obliged himſelf to pay 70,000l. *per annum* to the Dane, on condition of his furniſhing 6000 men, when demanded by the king of Great-Britain. Theſe troops, as lord Carteret obſerved, could not be of any uſe in any expedition againſt Spain, the only power which Great-Britain at preſent had to fear; therefore they could only be for the defence of Hanover; nevertheleſs the houſe granted the money. The crown being gratified in every particular, the ſeſſion was cloſed on the 14th of June.

On the 10th of July, orders were given for making repriſals on the Spaniards. Letters of marque were iſſued, and on the 20th Admiral Vernon was ſent to the Weſt-Indies; perhaps becauſe he had been a troubleſome cenſor to Sir Robert Walpole in the houſe of commons, and becauſe he had declared he could take Porto-Bello with only ſix ſhips. The moſt provoking inſolence of the Spaniards, and the cries of revenge at home, obliged the miniſtry to proceed to hoſtilities. The king of Spain refuſed to pay the 95,000l. mentioned in the convention, becauſe his demand on the South Sea company was not complied with, or to renounce his claim of ſearching the Britiſh trading veſſels. War was declared by both monarchs, and vigorous preparations were made for carrying it on. The Dutch refuſed to come into the meaſures of Great Britain, and the French ſhewed a deſign of entering into the intereſt of Spain, as common with them-

themſelves, about which the Britiſh court affected to be not in the leaſt concerned.

On the 20th of November Admiral Vernon took the Spaniſh town Porto Bello with only ſix ſhips. The Spaniards deſerted their forts, and ſuch was their puſilanimity, that they ſuffered them to be taken almoſt without bloodſhed. Vernon found more difficulty in demoliſhing the fortifications of the place than in taking it.

On the 15th of this month the two houſes of parliament met, and the ſeſſion was opened: after the uſual addreſſes, another was preſented by both houſes to the King, beſeeching him never to conclude any treaty with Spain, except the right of the Engliſh, to navigate the American ſeas, without being ſearched, be firſt acknowledged. The penſion bill was brought in, and being vigorouſly ſupported by Mr. Pulteney, Sir William Wyndham, and Mr Lyttleton, paſſed the houſe of commons, but in the lords it was loſt upon a diviſion.

The commons granted the crown all its demands; they voted 28,000 land forces and 6000 marines; they enabled the king to equip a powerful navy, to make good his ſubſidy to the king of Denmark, to give 40,000l. with his daughter the princeſs Mary, who was ſhortly to be eſpouſed to the prince of Heſſe, and to deduct from the ſinking fund 1,200,000l. for extraordinary expences, not mentioned in the eſtimates: the ſupplies this year amounted to four millions, and the land tax was now levied at four ſhillings in the pound. On the 29th of April 1740 the ſeſſion concluded, and at the beginning of May the king ſet out for Hanover.

Vernon's victory was celebrated throughout the kingdom with extravagant public rejoicings. After his ſucceſs at Porto Bello, he bombarded Carthagena and took San Lorenzo, a fort ſituated on the river Chagre, not far from Porto Bello. Commodore Anſon with a ſmall ſquadron ſet ſail for the South Seas to diſtreſs the

enemy on the coaſts of Chili and Peru, and to co-operate occaſionally with Admiral Vernon, on the other ſide the iſthmus of Darien; but this well laid ſcheme was almoſt ruined by unneceſſary delays before its departure from England. The Spaniards on the contrary hand, threatened to invade England with a body of troops under the command of the Duke of Ormond, aſſiſted by a powerful ſquadron. Upon receipt of this intelligence Sir John Norris ſailed with a large fleet to Spithead, on board of which was the Duke of Cumberland; but at length advice coming that the French and Spaniſh ſquadrons were gone for America, the deſign of Sir John Norris's going to Ferrol was laid aſide. A formidable armament was equipped againſt new Spain, the command of the land forces amounting to about 6000 men was given to Lord Cathcart, a brave and experienced officer: the fleet conſiſting of 27 ſhips of the line, beſides frigates, fire ſhips, bomb-ketches and tenders was under the direction of Sir Chaloner Ogle; but the delay this expedition met with at home proved its ruin.

In Europe, during the courſe of this year, the ſcene of affairs was entirely changed: king George concluded a ſubſidy treaty with the landgrave of Heſſe, who, in conſideration of his receiving annually 250,000 crowns engaged to furniſh 6000 men for four years. In May, William II. king of Pruſia died, and his ſon Frederic ſucceeded him. In October, Charles the VI. Emperor of Germany, and the laſt Prince of the houſe of Auſtria, died at Vienna, and was ſucceeded in his hereditary dominions by his eldeſt daughter the archdutcheſs Maria Thereſa, who had eſpouſed the grand duke of Tuſcany. Though ſhe ſucceeded, as queen of Hungary, by virtue of the pragmatic ſanction, which was guarantied by all the powers in Europe; yet this ſucceſſion occaſioned a bloody war in Germany. The elector of Bavaria refuſed to acknowledge her queen of Hungary and Bohemia,

Bohemia, becauſe he laid claim to theſe countries himſelf, as the deſcendant of the Emperor Ferdinand I. The young king of Pruſſia, immediately on the death of the Emperor, ſuddenly entered Sileſia with a conſiderable body of troops, and ſeized certain fiefs to which his family laid claim, and publiſhed a manifeſto, declaring that he had no intention to oppoſe the pragmatic ſanction. The Czarina of Ruſſia died a few days after the emperor, and was ſucceeded by Iwan, the infant ſon of her niece, the princeſs Anne of Mecklenburg, but the duke of Courland was appointed regent.

The ſudden ſtep which the king of Pruſſia took alarmed all the powers in Europe, and particularly affected king George. Great Britain was now in a diſagreeable ſituation, diſtracted by numerous inſurrections and all the internal commotions of enraged party, at war with Spain, and on the point of being involved in another with France; no proſpect of being aſſiſted by the Dutch, who were overawed by the French, and expoſed to greater expences than ever ſhe had borne before, with her national forces augmented to 51,515 men, excluſive of the Iriſh eſtabliſhment. Had Great Britain not been connected with Germany, ſhe could have maintained a ſucceſsful war againſt Spain and France; but it was her misfortune to labour under grievous oppreſſions, to ſee her money drained by the greedy hand of implicit obedience, and then to be ſunk in the foreign and myſterious vortex of German politics. †

On

† This year, the grievances of the poor, and trading people of all ranks, were doubly great: beſides the heavy and enormous taxes which they were obliged to pay, they were diſtreſſed from Chriſtmas to the latter end of February by a more ſevere froſt, than perhaps had ever been felt in any part of Europe, ſouth of Greenland. The navigation of the Thames was entirely ſtopped, and it was covered over with ice; water was ſold about the ſtreets in London; watermen, fiſhermen, and all mechanics, who worked in the open air, were totally diſabled from getting a livelihood: the

On the 18th of November the king opened the ſeſſion of parliament. The members of the oppoſition were determined to remove the miniſter from his majeſty's confidence; the burdens of the people were every day increaſing, the war was not carried on with ſpirit, and above all, he was ſo univerſally odious that his name was never mentioned with decency except by his dependents. Mr. Sandy, made a motion for removing Sir Robert Walpole from his majeſty's preſence and councils for ever, having previouſly in a ſtudied ſpeech expatiated on his mal-adminiſtration: he ſaid every one knew who was the adviſer and promoter of all meaſures, therefore the diſcontents, the reproaches, and even the curſes of the people, were all directed againſt that ſingle perſon, and they never expected an alteration of meaſures while he had any ſhare in the government. He then charged him with having endeavoured to ſupport his own intereſt, and to form a deſpotic government, and with having betrayed the honour and intereſt of his

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the fruits of the earth were deſtroyed by the exceſſive cold; the price of all proviſions were as dear and as ſcarce as in a time of dearth, and fuel was hardly to be purchaſed: numbers were chilled to death; even the fowls of the air were frequently ſeen to drop down dead by the ſevere cold. The hand of charity was never more liberally opened to relieve the diſtreſſes of unfortunate families than at this time; they were induſtriouſly ſought after; and many were found to conceal their miſery from motives of ingenuous ſhame: the ſolitary habitations of the widow, the orphan and the helpleſs, were conſtantly viſited, and if they refuſed to receive the charitable donations, they were privately conveyed to them, that the delicacy of their conſtitutions might not be ſhocked. Thoſe of opulent fortunes opened their purſes, and exerted themſelves in aſſiſting all the poor they knew or could find. This remarkable ſpirit of compaſſion and humanity, and the numerous acts of benevolence and well conducted charity, which prevented thouſands from periſhing by hunger and cold, reflect more honour on the Engliſh nation than all the victories gained by its arms during the whole reign.

coun-

country in the late convention. The motion was ſupported by Mr. John Barnard, Mr. Pulteney and other patriots; but the debate continuing till three o'clock in the morning, when ſixty members in the oppoſition had retired, the motion was rejected by the majority. The commons granted 40,000 ſeamen for the enſuing year, and about 30,000 men for the land ſervice; they provided for the ſubſidies payable to the king of Denmark and the landgrave of Heſſe. 300,000l. was granted to the queen of Hungary on a motion made by Sir Robert Walpole. In the houſe of peers lord Carteret made a motion for removing Sir Robert Walpole from his majeſty's preſence and councils for ever: he took a retroſpect of all the public affairs ſince the revolution; he explained the nature of every treaty which had been concluded under the preſent adminiſtration; he deſcribed the political connections of all Europe, and he expoſed the miſconduct and the iniquity of the miniſter. The duke of Argyle who had reſigned all his employments, and joined with the lords of the oppoſition, vigorouſly ſupported the motion with an extraordinary ſpirit of patriot indignation. Their ſpeeches on this occaſion, were truly admirable, and would have done honour to the beſt orators of Greece or Rome. The debate laſted two days; at length the motion was rejected, upon which 30 peers entered into a proteſt. Though the miniſter gained this victory, yet his character was ſo wounded by this vigorous proteſt, that every body perceived the period of his influence to be at no great diſtance. On the 25th of April 1741 the ſeſſion was cloſed, and the parliament diſolved, and ſoon after the king ſet out for Hanover.

The king of Pruſſia's progreſs in Sileſia was rapid and ſucceſsful; he publickly entered Breſlau, the capital, and his troops ſeized the other fortified places. The queen of Hungary, fearful of his deſigns, as he had attacked her without any ſort of provocation, ordered

ordered count Neuperg to aſſemble an army and oppoſe the Pruſſians in Sileſia. This general attacked the Pruſſian army at Molwitz; but after an obſtinate diſpute, in which he loſt near 4000 men, he was obliged to quit the field and abandon Sileſia. In this day of trouble to the queen of Hungary, ſhe was deſerted by all her friends except the king of Great Britain, who declared ſtrongly in her favour. The 300,000l. granted by parliament was remitted to her, the troops of Hanover were augmented, the auxiliary Danes and Heſſians in the pay of great Britain were ordered to be in readineſs to march, and a number of Britiſh forces encamped and prepared for embarkation. The Bavarian troops, aſſiſted by a corps of Pruſſians, entered Bohemia; Count Neuperg was obliged to withdraw from Sileſia to check their progreſs. The king of Pruſſia having nothing to oppoſe him in the field, entered Moravia and took Olmutz the capital: then he formed a camp of obſervation near Magdebourg, oppoſite to Hanover, becauſe he had been told there was a propoſal made to the court of Vienna for attacking his dominions, and dividing the conqueſt. France eagerly ſeized this opportunity for cruſhing the houſe of Auſtria: Marechal Mallebois, with a numerous army, was ſent into Weſtphalia to intimidiate the elector of Hanover, and the deſign was effected. King George ſigned a treaty of neutrality for Hanover, and engaged to vote for the elector of Bavaria at the enſuing election for emperor. It was the deſign of the French king to raiſe this prince to the imperial dignity, and if this point was gained, his conqueſts in the empire and the Netherlands would be unlimited, and his advantages infinite, with this view he ſent another large army into Germany under marſhal Broglio. Prague, the capital of Bohemia, was taken by the French and Bavarians, and the elector crowned king: even Vienna muſt have fallen a prey to their arms had

had it not been covered by count Palfi with 30,000 Hungarians. The queen fled to Preſburg in Hungary, and there pronounced a pathetic ſpeech to the ſtates, who were ſo touched with her condition, that they aſſured her unanimouſly they would ſacrifice their lives and fortunes in her defence; the ſubſidy which ſhe received from Great Britain, enabled her to erect magazines, and to pay thoſe troops, without which their fidility would have flagged. She had a good miniſtry and able generals. Several advantages in a ſhort time were gained over the enemy: the French were drove out of Auſtria: ſeveral towns were taken, and all Bavaria laid under contribution. However the elector was elected emperor. The Dutch at length began to augment their troops: the king of Sardinia declared in favour of the queen of Hungary, and the republic of Genoa againſt her. A difference broke out between the Swedes and the Ruſſians, but it was afterwards ſettled.

The Britiſh affairs were not ſo fortunate. The grand expedition under Sir Chalenor Ogle, arrived at Dominica, a neutral iſland in the Weſt Indies, where lord Cathcart, who commanded the land forces, an experienced officer, of unblemiſhed honour and courage, died, and was ſucceeded in the command by general Wentworth, a man without experience, talents or reſolution. About the beginning of January 1741, Sir Chalenor Ogle joined admiral Vernon at Jamaica: the fleet now conſiſted of 115 veſſels, 29 of which were of the line, with 15,000 ſailors, and about 12,000 land forces.* In a council of war it was

* Had the fleet been ſent ſooner from England, it is poſſible this expedition would not have miſcarried; it was the misfortune of its officers not to reach the Spaniſh main till the month of March; and in April it is well known the periodical rains begin, which occaſion ſuch a change in the atmoſphere as to render the climate extreamly unhealthy: during theſe exceſſive rains, which continue two months, it is not poſſible for any army to keep the field.

reſolved to attack Carthagena, a ſtrong and large town of Spaniſh America. The fleet, which was under the command of Vernon, forced their way into the harbour; the troops were landed, and ſeveral forts which guarded it were taken; lord Aubrey Beauclerc, a brave officer, who commanded the Prince Frederic man of war, was killed in the attack on the enemies batteries. A difference broke out between Vernon and Wentworth, the former complained loudly of the latter's inactivity, and did all in his power to thwart him. Wentworth complained that the ſhips lay idle, while his troops were haraſſed by ſevere duty and deſtroyed by the epidemic diſtemper. They held each other in contempt, and mantained ſeparate cabals for each other's diſgrace. Vernon ſaid he could not bring his ſhips near enough to batter the town of Carthegena; he affirmed it was commanded by fort Lazar ſituated on a hill and it might be taken by ſcalade: Wentworth attacked it, but in a very injudicious manner; his troops were ſorely galled by the Spaniards, and after loſing 600 of their beſt men, and ſome gallant officers, they retreated. The rains were now ſo heavy they could not encamp; the diſtemper raged ſo violently among the troops, that they were carried off in hundreds: at length they were re-embarked, and the fleet returned to Jamaica, having loſt near 20,000 men in their fatal expedition, from which the Engliſh nation had expected ſo much, and which afterwards occaſioned ſuch general diſſatisfaction in every part of it. A deſign had been formed for attacking St. Jago in Hiſpaniola but it was defeated: this iſland of Rattan, which abounds with logwood, was taken, but it was afterwards abandoned.

The French openly aſſiſted the Spaniards particularly in carrying their property on board their ſhips, upon pretence that "free bottoms made free goods." They ſent fleets to the Weſt Indies from Breſt and Toulon, and repaired the fortifications of Dunkirk.

Their

Their fleet from Toulon convoyed a Spaniſh ſquadron through the Streights of Gibralter, where admiral Haddock was ſtationed. When he attempted to attack the Spaniards, the French admiral told him he would aſſiſt his maſter's allies; upon which Haddock deſiſted. But this tranſaction was not ſo pacificly heard in England, where the people clamoured, and affirmed that the Engliſh admiral's hands were tied up by the treaty of Hanover. The Spaniards ſent a fleet to the South Sea after commodore Anſon, but it was almoſt totally deſtroyed by tempeſts. The Britiſh navy was ſo inactive, through the backwardneſs of the miniſtry, as to excite the ridicule and contempt of both friends and enemies; upwards of 100 ſhips manned by 54,000 ſailors were in commiſſion, and they did not even protect the trade. The land forces, excluſive of foreign mercenaries, amounted to 60,000 men.

The election for members of parliament produced violent conteſts all over the kingdom; the abhorence which the people had to the miniſter occaſioned their vigorouſly oppoſing his influence; his oppoſers in England were backed by the prince of Wales, and in Scotland by the duke of Argyle; in both places they were ſo ſucceſsful as to gain the majority of repreſentatives. On the 4th of December the ſeſſion was opened. The addreſs of the commons occaſioned a warm debate, whether they ſhould promiſe to defend the king's electoral dominions, and return thanks for the proſecution of the war? The miniſter was ſharply oppoſed by that ever memorable and incorruptable patriot Mr. Shippen; Mr. Pulteny and other gentlemen: they affirmed, the people were apprehenſive of being ſacrificed to the ſecurity of foreign dominions; that the war had been moſt egregiouſly managed; and are we, ſaid they, to return thanks for defeats, diſgrace and loſſes. The addreſs, in its original form, was carried by a ſmall majo-

The miniſter now ſaw he had loſt his numbers, and though this was a victory to him, yet the oppoſers were elated to find themſelves ſo numerous, and they knew they ſhould be augmented. The miniſter's hope lay in the diſputed elections, in order to turn the balance in his favour, but he had the mortification to ſee them carried againſt him. Now he he reſolved to reſign; but firſt he took every precaution to prevent an impeachment: he was conſcious he tottered on the brink of ruin, and that a ſingle vote would at any time commit him to the Tower. For the ſake of ſelf-ſecurity, he reſolved to divide the oppoſition. He employed his credit and dexterity, and his emiſſaries tampered with ſome of the members. The biſhop of Oxford ſent a meſſage to the prince of Wales, importing, that if his royal highneſs would write a letter of condeſcenſion to the king, he and all his counſellors ſhould be taken into favour, 50,000l. ſhould be added to his revenue, 200,000l. be diſburſed for the immediate payment of his debts, and ſuitable proviſion be made in due time for all his followers. This propoſal was declined by the prince, who declared he would accept no ſuch conditions while Sir Robert Walpole continued to direct the public affairs; he looked upon him as a bar between his majeſty and the affections of his people; as the author of all the national grievances both at home and abroad, and the ſole cauſe of that contempt which Great Britain had incurred in all the courts in Europe. The oppoſition now loudly demanded the fall of an odious miniſter, at leaſt as a ſacrifice to an injured people. Sir Robert Walpole perceiving the violence of the houſe, and how greatly he was deteſted in it, immediately left it, and declared he would never come there again. Next day, February 4, 1742, the king adjourned both houſes of parliament, for twelve days, which occaſioned a great ferment; many declaring it was done merely for to ſcreen the miniſter,

niſter, who, in the interim, reſigned all his employments, and was created earl of Orford.

A weak and worthleſs miniſtry being removed, a new one was appointed, principally out of the adherents to the prince of Wales. Mr. Sandys was appointed chancellor of the exchequer; lord Wilmington, firſt lord of the treaſury; lord Harrington, lord preſident; lord Carteret, ſecretary of ſtate; the duke of Argyle, field-marſhal; but he ſoon reſigned, and this poſt was given to the earl of Stair; Mr. Pulteney was ſworn privy-councellor, and created earl of Bath. The prince of Wales, attended by the heads of the oppoſition, waited on the king, who received him graciouſly, and ordered his guards to be reſtored. The earl of Orford gained his grand point in dividing the members of the oppoſition, in order to prevent ſo full and minute an enquiry into his conduct, as might endanger his ſafety; and indeed the principal thing which the court required of the new miniſtry, was to permit the earl of Orford to eſcape with impunity. When a ſelect committee of the commons examined into ten years of his adminiſtration, they found the article of ſecret ſervice only, amounted to 1,453,400l. They found many acts of fraud and corruption, particularly in iſſuing money for influencing elections; 50,000l. had been given to pay authors, printers, &c. who had been employed in defence of the miniſtry. They found he had been concerned in granting fraudulent contracts for paying the troops in the Weſt-Indies. Some perſons who refuſed to give evidence on this examination were taken into cuſtody, and on the very day which the miniſter reſigned, it appeared he had ſigned orders on the civil liſt revenues, for 30,000l. and had pawned thoſe orders to a banker. The committee were preparing another report, when they were interrupted by the prorogation of the parliament. 50,000l. was granted to the queen of Hungary; the expences

of

of the year were eſtimated at ſix millions, which were granted, and the ſeſſion cloſed on the 15th of July *.

The queen of Hungary, by the ſupplies ſhe received from England, was enabled to aſſemble two conſiderable armies, one of which ſhe put under the command of prince Charles of Lorrain. He drove the Pruſſians and Saxons out of Moravia, and advanced into Bohemia to attack the French, who muſt have fallen a ſacrifice to ſuperior numbers, had not the king of Pruſſia immediately entered that kingdom, and oppoſed the progreſs of the Auſtrians. Theſe two armies met at Czaſlaw, and fought an obſtinate and bloody battle; at firſt the Auſtrians gained a great advantage, but committing ſome irregularities, the Pruſſians ſeized the opportunity to rally, and returning to the charge, drove the Auſtrians out of the field, with the loſs of 5000 men, though not without ſuſtaining near an equal loſs themſelves. The king of Pruſſia after this battle, conceived a diſguſt to the war, and under the mediation of king George, he concluded a treaty with the queen of Hungary, who ceded to him Sileſia, with the county of Glatz, upon his promiſe that he would obſerve a ſtrict neutrality during the war.

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* Impartiality obliges us to remark, that after the king had been in ſome ſort compelled to part with his favourite miniſter, for whom he had great affection, and in whom he placed unlimitted confidence, it became almoſt a matter of indifference to him who ſerved him in the affairs of government.

No ſooner did Mr. Pulteney embrace the offers of the court, and accept of the title of *earl of Bath*, than he was forſook by his popularity; he was no more the firſt and firm patriot, or the ſhining ornament of his country, but an object of contempt in the eyes of his friends, and the whole nation. Lord Carteret, who was termed the miniſter, and Mr. Sandys, next embraced the offers of the court, and they were followed by many others, who alſo poſſeſſed pliant principles, and an unbounded ambition. Strange that ſuch talents, which had been moſt juſtly and univerſally admired, which had long defended the cauſes of public liberty and virtue, ſhould in a moment turn apoſtates, for an empty title, or the blandiſhments of power and affluence!

The

The French in Bohemia finding themſelves thus abandoned by their ally, immediately retired under the cannon of Prague, which place was ſoon after cloſely blockaded by the Auſtrians, and continued ſome time, ſo that the French ſuffered great hardſhips by the want of proviſions. When the court of Verſailles were informed of this, they ordered marſhal Maillibois to march from the Rhine to their relief, and bring them off; but when he entered Bohemia, he found the Auſtrians in poſſeſſion of all the paſſes and mountains, therefore he retired, after ſuſtaining ſome loſs from the Auſtrian light troops, who haraſſed him greatly in his march. Mean while winter drew on, and the French in Prague, commanded by marſhal Broglio, and count de Belleiſle, were reduced to the eating of horſe fleſh, and expoſed to the ſeverities of a moſt rigorous ſeaſon. Broglio found means to eſcape in the habit of courier. They were now reduced to the alternative of periſhing by famine or by war. About the middle of December, Belleiſle formed a ſcheme of retreating with his garriſon; he put it in execution about midnight, when he departed from Prague with 14,000 men, and thirty pieces of cannon. He choſe an unfrequented broken road; and marched with ſuch expedition, notwithſtanding the weakneſs and fatigue of his army, and the country covered with ſnow, that he reached the mountains before he was overtaken by the Auſtrian Huſſars, who however could make no impreſſion on the main body of his army; they took not a man, except thoſe who were unable to march by faintneſs, cold, or hunger; many hundreds of theſe periſhed in the ſnow, and thoſe who did not, were butchered by the Auſtrian irregulars. At length he reached Egra, and then proſecuted his march without moleſtation. The Auſtrians returned to Prague, the garriſon of which conſiſting of 900 men, made an honourable

honourable capitulation, in conſequence of ſome of the principal citizens being taken away by Belleiſle as hoſtages for their ſafety.

The king of Great-Britain reſolved to make a diverſion in the Netherlands, though the Dutch at this time had not conſented to favour his cauſe or inclination*. 16,000 Britiſh troops were embarked and ſent for Germany, where they were joined by as many Hanoverians, and 6000 Heſſians, all in the pay of Great-Britain, under the command of the earl of Stair: late in the ſeaſon they were joined by ſome Auſtrians, and then they went into winter quarters, about Ghent, Bruſſels, and Liege.

The court of Spain having claimed ſome part of the Auſtrian dominions in Italy; this part of Europe was next embroiled in the war. An Engliſh fleet was ſent into the Mediterranean under the direction of admiral Matthews, a brave officer, who profeſſed great openneſs and freedom in his behaviour, but was hot and paſſionate, in order to aſſiſt the queen of Hungary againſt the Spaniards, and co-operate with the meaſures of the king of Sardinia. Matthews was aſſiſted by admiral Leſtock, who had ſucceeded admiral Haddock. The king of Naples ſent 20,000 troops to join the Spaniards, upon which Matthews detached commodore Martin, with a ſmall ſquadron to Naples, and obliged that monarch to recal his troops, or he would bombard his capital. The Spaniſh army, thus weakened, were not able to make

* From this time to the year 1748, the fruitleſs, unſucceſsful, bloody, and expenſive German war, became the firſt object of attention in the Britiſh counſels. Great Britain, from being an umpire, became a principal in theſe continental quarrels, and intailed upon herſelf the whole burden of ſupporting them, by laviſhing away her treaſure to the emolument of ſome hungry Germans, and her blood in the defence of a puny electorate. The national war againſt Spain, now became but a ſecondary conſideration.

head againſt the Sardinians and Auſtrians, who drove them into the ſouth of Italy; and the duke of Modena from his capital, becauſe he had joined them. The Spaniſh magazines at Genoa were deſtroyed by admiral Matthews.

In America, the Spaniards made a deſcent upon Georgia, and ſhewed a deſign of attacking Carolina; but governor Oglethorpe oppoſed them with great bravery, and at length obliged them to retire with conſiderable loſs. Vernon and Wentworth were called home, and the fleet with the marines were left under the command of Sir Chalenor Ogle.

On the 16th of November, the ſeſſion of parliament was opened. The ſpirit of party ſeemed now to rage with greater violence than ever. The new m——— was as odious as the old one had been, becauſe he had run ſuch great lengths in foreign connections, in purchaſing beggarly allies, and maintaining mercenary armies, as ſeemed to threaten the impoveriſhment of his country. The ſame language which had been uſed by Sir Robert Walpole and his abettors againſt the oppoſition, was now adopted by the new converts, who with falſe reaſonings, and partial repreſentations, argued on the defence of Hanover and a land war againſt France, with violence and declamation. They were anſwered, refuted, and ſeverely ſtigmatiſed by the few remaining ſtaunch friends of public virtue. The motion for keeping the Hanoverians in Britiſh pay, was attacked with ſurpriſing reſolution; the debate was long and obſtinate; but at length the motion was carried in favour of the court. The gin act was repealed after a warm debate, and the mutiny bill paſſed. The commons granted ſix millions for ſupplies, and the ſeſſion was cloſed on the 21ſt of April 1743. The king immediately embarked for Hanover, accompanied by the duke of Cumberland, lord Carteret, and other perſons of diſtinction *.

* The loud and clamorous cry againſt Hanover, frequent journies to it, continental wars, &c. are, by ſome, conſidered as the firſt ſpark which kindled up the flame of rebellion two years after. From ſuch appearances of diſcontent, the pretenders friend's abroad,

The Britiſh troops with their auxillaries, amounting in all to 40,000 men were aſſembled, and in May encamped on the river Mayne. The French king, apprehending that prince Charles of Lorrain intended to join this army, aſſembled another of 60,000 men on the Mayne, under the command of marſhal Noailles, who choſe ſuch a convenient ſituation, and immediately took poſſeſſion of ſuch parts of the country, as totally prevented the allies from bringing any proviſion to their camp. When king George joined his army he found it in danger of ſtarving; the French were on the other ſide of the river, and had batteries erected along its banks; he was informed that 12,000 Hanoverians and Heſſians were at Hanau ready to join him, upon which he reſolved to march thither, as well to effect the junction, as to get proviſions for his troops. He removed his head quarters from Aſcaffenburgh, and began to march towards Dettingen, both of which places were at that inſtant ſeized by the enemy. Notwithſtanding he was thus almoſt ſurrounded, and the enemy's cannon playing on his flank, he continued to march; in this condition he

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abroad, believed that the people of Great Britain were inclined to reſtore the Stuart family: the French court ſpared no pains to inſtil and cheriſh this darling hope in the pretender and his friends, and Cardinal Tencin, who owed his riſe to him, openly and warmly eſpouſed his cauſe at Verſailles. It is true there were numbers in England who wiſhed well to that cauſe, and ſome who were zealous in it: perhaps many of them found it au uncomfortable theme to reflect on the numerous and heavy taxes, the increaſed annual expences, aud the growing debts, under which they laboured; likewiſe their poverty and ruin of their commerce; all which they could not but think were brought on by embarking this nation into a German war, merely for the defence of Hanover, without any poſſibility of producing the leaſt advantage to Great Britain; who, thus yoked to the continent, and to continental wars, muſt ſupply them with men and money, not only at the hazard of her internal ſafety, but of the whole of her wealth; while many of her head men, who ought to be, as they were of old, the ſupporters of her bulwarks, properties, laws and liberties, were half Germanized; and being of courſe ſeparated from an honeſt and ſtrict conſideration of her true intereſt, were purſuing a coſtly and bloody phantom of whim, caprice, and parade. How unlike are theſe to thoſe glorious days of deminutive expence? before this nation was chained down to the rock of adverſity; before its brave troops were compelled to wade into inhoſpitable regions, and combat with foes whoſe names, till within this century, we never heard of?

was compelled to fight at a very great diſadvantage, or to ſurrender: fortunately for the allies, the duke de Gramont, a hot headed youth, who commanded a conſiderable part of the French army, and who was poſted in a hollow way in their front, came out of his ambuſh much ſooner than the marſhal Noailles intended; upon this diſcovery, the battle began; king George behaved with the utmoſt intrepidity, and frequently expoſed his perſon. Lord Stair, ſhewed himſelf an able general on this occaſion; the French at Aſchaffenburgh deſigned to attack the rear of the allies, but he defeated their project, by ordering ſome cannon for their reception; he rallied the broken regiments of cavalry, and brought them to the charge; the king ſaw his infantry determine the fate of the day in his favour, and he ſaw the French repaſs the Mayne, without moleſtation, after loſing near 5000 men. Lord Stair propoſed a purſuit, but it was over-ruled for ſome reaſons, which to this day are unknown: but ſuch was the hurry of the conquerors to get away from the ſcene of action, that they left their ſick and wounded to the mercy of the French, who it muſt be owned, treated them with great care, tenderneſs, and humanity, at the requeſt of lord Stair. The duke of Cumberland was wounded in this action, and the brave general Clayton was killed. The allies gained no kind of advantage, excepting joining a body of their confederates at Hanau, nor did the French loſe one inch of ground, as they were permitted to recover from their conſternation without any diſturbance. The allies remained inactive during the reſt of the campaign. In September they were joined by 20,000 Dutch, and in October they went into winter quarters. The motion which this army made after the battle of Dettingen, were fruitand ridiculous: lord Stair was unwilling that his reputation ſhould ſuffer, by meaſures in which he had no concern; he therefore obtained leave to re-

ſign; and retired an illuſtrionus monument of neglected merit. A treaty was concluded at Worms, between the kings of Great-Britain and Sardinia, and the queen of Hungary. The latter engaged to furniſh 30,000 men to act in Italy, and the former to give the king of Sardinia annually the ſum of 280,000l. on condition of his furniſhing 45,000 more.

The emperor in the mean time was only the ſhadow of royalty, he fled about from one part of Germany to another, juſt as the tide of war ſeemed to ebb or flow. The Baravian army was defeated at Branaw, by prince Charles of Lorrain, with the loſs of 4000 men. The French were driven almoſt totally out of Germany, by the Auſtrian armies, whoſe generals viſited the king of Great-Britain at Hanau. In Italy the Spaniſh army commanded by count Gage, advanced to attack the Auſtrian and Piedmonteſe forces, commanded by count Traun, in Modena: at a place called Campo Santo, they came to an action, which was for ſome time obſtinate and indeciſive; at length the Spaniards retired with the loſs of 4000 men. Don Philip entered Savoy, and joined a conſiderable body of French forces, who afterwards attacked the Piedmonteſe, but without ſucceſs. Admiral Matthews continued in the Mediterranean, where he was reinforced by ſeveral ſhips, in order to watch the motions of the French and Spaniſh fleets in the harbour of Toulon.

The Britiſh war in America was unſucceſsful: commodore Knowles was ſent with a ſquadron of ſhips to attack La Gueira and Porto Cavallo; at the former, he was ſo well received, as to be obliged to get away; at the latter, his men were ſeized with a panic, upon which he retired to his ſtation in the Weſt-Indies.

In England the diſputes about Hanover were wrought to an extraordinry pitch of malevolence and exaſperation, It was affirmed that the Britiſh general

general had been neglected, that the Hanoverians had too much weight, that the ſovereign appeared at Dettingen in an Hanoverian ſcarf, and indulged thoſe mercenaries with particular marks of royal favour; and that they were of little ſervice in the day of battle. Theſe reports made a ſtrong impreſſion on the minds of the people already irritated by ſupporting a continental war for the intereſt of Germany. When the parliament met in the beginning of December, a motion was made to diſcontinue the Hanoverians in Britiſh pay after Chriſtmas day; lord Cheſterfield declared, better troops might be hired at a leſs expence: many excellent arguments adorned this famous debate, which at length terminated in favour of the court. The ſupplies amounted to ſix millions and a half; to this ſum were added three millions and a half, payed to the ſinking fund in perpetual taxes; ſo that this year's expences roſe to ten millions.

The diſcontents which continued to rage in the nation, the univerſal cry againſt Hanover, and the furious ſpirit of political party, which ſeemed now to puſh things beyond their uſual extreme, inſtilled a belief into the French miniſtry, that the people were ripe for revolt. Prince Charles, ſon to the chevalier de St George, was invited from Rome to Paris, where he arrived in the habit of a Spaniſh courier. The papiſts and jacobites in Great-Britain, acquainted the court at Verſailles, that if the pretender was ſeen at the head of the French army in England, a revolution would inſtantly follow. The French king ſaw his advantage in giving a king to Great-Britain; in reſtoring a family allied by blood to all the greateſt princes in Europe, or at leaſt if this deſign ſhould miſcarry, he knew that by embroiling England he ſhould carry his point in Germany, and he knew that England was the ſole ſupport of the houſe of Auſtria; therefore if he once found her work enough

enough at home, the other could do nothing by herſelf.

Twenty ſhips of the line were immediately equiped and ſailed from Breſt, and 15,000 land forces were put on board, under the command of count Saxe, and the prince pretender; at Dunkirk they were ordered to take on board 7000 more. In January 1744, they appeared in the Engliſh channel; but a ſudden and a violent ſtorm ariſing, they were drove on the French coaſt, and the fleet was ſo much damaged that the troops were obliged to be re-embarked. As ſoon as this fleet appeared in the channel, Sir John Norris with a ſuperior ſquadron ſailed to attack them, but he permitted them to eſcape. When the king informed the parliament of theſe tranſactions, they preſented very loyal addreſſes, and their example was followed from different parts of England. The Britiſh reſident at Paris required that the young pretender ſhould leave the French dominions; but he received no ſatisfactory anſwer: on the 20th of March, the French court declared war againſt England, and the Britiſh miniſter was ordered to leave the kingdom. On the 31ſt of March, war was declared in London againſt France. A few days after the king informed the parliament of the reciprocal declarations, and both houſes again preſented warm addreſſes; they paſſed a bill, after a ſharp diſpute, for making it high treaſon to correſpond with any of the pretender's ſons. On the 12th of May, the ſeſſion was cloſed, and the king told them the French had made vaſt preparations on the ſide of the Netherlands, but that the Dutch had agreed to furniſh the troops ſtipulated by treaty.

In the beginning of May, the French king appeared in Flanders, at the head of 100,000 men, aſſiſted by marſhal Noailles, and count Saxe. The allies compoſed of Britiſh and Hanoverians, commanded by marſhal Wade; of Auſtrians commanded by

by count d'Aremberg, and the Dutch under count Maurice of Naſſau, amounted to 76,000, ill commanded, and diſtracted by diviſions. The enemy took the towns of Caentrey, Menin, Ypres, Furnes, and Mont-Capil, and the French king entered Dunkirk in a triumphal manner, while the allies looked in a ſtate of ſhameful inactivity without ſpirit to check the enemy's progreſs, or intelligence to penetrate into their deſigns: they were for ſome time in excellent condition, and were reinforced by four Britiſh regiments, and eleven Dutch battalions, yet they did nothing except aſtoniſhing all Europe by their inſenſibility of ſhame. Prince Charles of Lorrain, at the head of the grand Auſtrian army, having paſſed the Rhine, entered Alſace, and made a diverſion in favour of the allies: the French king was obliged to leave Flanders with 40,000 men, in order to oppoſe prince Charles. The allies had ſeveral favourable opportunities of compelling marſhal Saxe, who now commanded the French army in Flanders, to fight at a great diſadvantage: had they been fired with the leaſt ſpirit, they might have taken Liſle, but they neglected to make uſe of any advantage which fortune put in their way; forage at length growing ſcarce, they went into winter quarters about the middle of October; and thus cloſed as diſhonourable a campaign to themſelves, as it was glorious to the enemy. When the French appeared in Alſace, prince Charles evacuated it, and repaſſed the Rhine.

The unfortunate emperor ſupplicated the king of of Great-Britain to intercede for peace; he promiſed that as ſoon as he was re-eſtabliſhed in his hereditary dominions, and recogniſed as emperor by the queen of Hungary, to renounce the alliance of France, and throw himſelf into the arms of the maritime powers. The queen was too obſtinate to part with any of her conqueſts, and beſides her view was to expel the emperor, and elect her conſort; and Great Britain rejected

jected this fair opportunity of concluding to honour and advantage, a bloody, expenſive, and foreign war. The diſtreſſed ſituation of the emperor excited the paſſions of pity and revenge in ſeveral princes, who determined to reſent the inſolence of the houſe of Auſtria, which had been long famed for pride, tyranny, and ambition. The king of Pruſſia repaired to Franckfort, and there a treaty was concluded between the emperor, the king of Pruſſia, the landgrave of Heſſe, and the elector Palatine; in order to reſtore the imperial dignity, and the tranquility of Germany. This treaty broke all the deſigns formed by the king of Great Britain and the queen of Hungary, againſt whom France declared war, becauſe ſhe was deaf to terms of accommodation. The king of Pruſſia immediately entered Bohemia, at the head of 84,000 men, and after a ſhort ſiege, which neither coſt him much trouble nor many men, he took Prague, though defended by 13,000 men, whom he made priſoners: another conderable body of Pruſſians entered Moravia, and laid great part of it under contribution. The queen retired into Hungary, where 44,000 men took up arms in her defence, who co-operated with the army of prince Charles, now augmented to 90,000 men, and obliged the king of Pruſſia to quit his conqueſt, as he had not been aſſiſted by the French in the manner he expected. Finding himſelf worſted, he offered peace to the queen, but ſhe rejected his propoſals, declaring ſhe had been forced into the treaty of Breſlau, which was ſigned ſoon after her troops loſt the battle of Czarlaw in 1742, and inſiſted on a right to break it. The French, army which had entered Germany in the abſence of prince Charles, beſieged and took Friburg the bulwark of Interior Auſtria, under the eye of their ſovereign, and the emperor after having behaved with the greateſt moderation, was at length reſtored to his hereditary dominions.

In

In Italy the French and Spaniards were almoſt as ſucceſsful as they could wiſh, they gained ſeveral advantages over the king of Sardinia, and at length routed him near Coni. The Auſtrian army commanded by prince Lobkowitz made ſome attempts to recover this loſs, but they proved unſucceſsful: count Brown, another Auſtrian general, ſurpriſed Velitri in the pope's territories, while the king of Naples and the duke of Modena, were in the town faſt aſleep in their beds, who very narrowly eſcaped falling into his hands.

The Britiſh affairs in the Mediterranean, ſeemed to be drawing towards a criſis. The French and Spaniſh fleets, which had been a conſiderable time blocked up in the harbour of Toulon, at length came out, conſiſting of 28 ſhips of the line and ſix frigates, quite clean and completely manned. The Britiſh fleet was the ſame in number, but very foul and incomplete in ſeveral articles; it was divided into three diviſions, the one was commanded by rear-admiral Rowley, the centre by admiral Matthews, and the rear by vice-admiral Leſtock. On the 11th of February, when the fleets were ſo near as to begin to engage, Leſtock with his whole diviſion was five miles aſtern from the centre. Matthews obſerving the enemies to be making all the haſte they could to get away, reſolved to check their ſpeed, and immediately with his diviſion, which was all of a cluſter, he attacked the Spaniſh admiral, and ordered admiral Rowley to attack the French; theſe commanders had the miſfortune to be ſeconded only by a very few of their captains. The Marlborough commanded by the brave captain Cornwall, who was Matthews's ſecond, was reduced to a wreck by the number of her adverſaries, and her captain was ſlain. Matthews attempted to burn the Spaniſh admiral's ſhip, by a fireſhip which he ſent down for that purpoſe, but this veſſel was obliged to proceed on this dangerous er-

rand, uncovered through the obſtinancy of ſome commanders, who were afterward broke, and at length blew up, with her captain and part of the crew on board, without doing any damage to the Spaniards. Captain Hawke in the Berwick took a French ſhip called the Poder, but ſhe was afterwards burned. Night coming on the action ceaſed, and the enemies fleet ſailed away for the coaſt of Spain. During the whole day, Leſtock kept aloop under the punctillios of diſcipline, for when Matthews hoiſted the ſignal to engage, he kept abroad that for the line of battle, which Leſtock by attempting to obey, pretended he could not get into the action; but the truth is, an animoſity had broke out between them, and Leſtock, at the expence of his country's intereſt, gratified his paſſion of revenge, in ſeeing his colleague ſeverely ſuffer by the enemy's ſuperior force. After the engagement the diviſions united, and purſued the enemy till the 14th day of the month, but when they came within ſight of them, Matthews ordered the chace to be diſcontinued; and ſoon after he ſuſpended Leſtock, and ſent him home in diſgrace; where in his turn he accuſed his accuſer. Matthews coming home, a court martial was appointed to try them, and ſeveral captains who had miſbehaved were broke. Leſtock was honourably acquitted and reinſtated in the ſervice, Matthews was broke, and narrowly eſcaped being ſhot for cowardice and deſertion. This deciſion is the aſtoniſhment of the preſent age, and will be the puzzle of the future.

About the middle of June Commodore Anſon, in his ſingle ſhip, the Centurion, returned to Portſmouth, richly laden with treaſure from his expedition round the world; he had deſtroyed the Spaniſh town of Paita in Peru, and taken an Acapulco ſhip after a ſmart engagement. Sir John Balchen was ordered to put to ſea with a ſquadron to attack the French fleet which had lately ſailed from Breſt, but his ſhip, the Victory

Victory, eſteemed one of the moſt beautiful firſt rates in the world, foundered near the Iſle of Alderney, and all her crew, conſiſting of 1100 choice men, periſhed. Marſhal Belleiſle, attended by his brother and ſome others, who had been ſent by the French king to concert the operations of the next campaign with the emperor, were ſtoped at a place called Elbengrode, in Hanover, and conducted to England, where they were confined in Windſor Caſtle. The earl of Holderneſſe, ambaſſador to the ſtate of Venice, was ſtopt near Nuremburg in Franconia by the Imperialiſts, but was afterwards releaſed with ſatisfaction.

In England the management of the war produced great diſcontents among the people. The duke of Newcaſtle, and his brother, took umbrage at the influence and power of lord Cateret; they entered into an alliance with the leading members in the oppoſition againſt the miniſter, who, knowing their power in parliament, avoided the ſtorm by making a voluntary reſignation of his employments. Lord Harrington was made ſecretary of ſtate, the duke of Bedford firſt lord of the admiralty, and the earl of Cheſterfield lord lieutenant of Ireland. The ſeſſion of parliament was opened in November, when there appeared ſuch a ſpirit of unanimity among the members as had not been known during the whole reign; every body was intent upon the war. The ſupplies, amounting to near ſix millions and a half, were granted; the ſeſſion was cloſed on the 2d. of May 1745, and the king ſet out for Hanover.

In the month of January 1745, the emperor Charles VII. died; which put all the princes of Germany in commotion. The king of Great Britain, the queen of Hungary, the king of Poland, and the ſtates of Holland, all entered into a treaty of alliance, and mutual guaranty of each others dominions; but the king of Poland was paid for his concurrence with

an annual ſubſidy of 150,000l. two thirds from England, and the remainder from Holland. In March, the young duke of Cumberland was ſent over to Germany to command the Britiſh forces there *. The king of Poland was invited to ſucceed to the Imperial dignity, but he refuſed: there were ſome thoughts of elevating the king of Pruſſia to it, but they vaniſhed. Peace was again propoſed to the queen of Hungary, but ſhe refuſed their terms. She however accommodated matters, with the young elector of Bavaria, and recognized the title of his late father. Her conſort the grand duke of Tuſcany, repaired with an army to Frankfort, where he was declared king of the Romans, and elected emperor of Germany.

In Flanders the French army was commanded by marſhal Saxe, and the French king and the Dauphin came to his camp. They laid ſiege to the ſtrong town of Tournay, which was defended by 8000 men, and the allies by attempting to relieve it, brought on the battle of Fontenoy. Early on the firſt of May, the action began; the Engliſh Infantry commanded by the duke of Cumberland, drove the French from their lines, and repulſed them to their camp with great ſlaughter, where they were expoſed on every part to a dreadful fire; but the Dutch under prince Waldeck, forbearing to attack the village of Fontenoy, and they having no cavalry to cover their flanks, the duke of Cumberland ordered a retreat, which was effected in tolerable order; about 12,000 of the allies were ſlain, and it is thought about as many French. The allies retreated to Aeth, but Tournay did not ſurrender till the 21ſt of June. Had the Engliſh and Hanoverians in the battle been properly ſuſtained and aſſiſted, there was the greateſt probability of their gaining the victory and ſaving Tournay.

* About this time died the earl of Orford.

nay. The conquerors took Ghent, Bruges, Oudenards, Dendermond, Oſtend, Nieuport, Aeth, and other towns, after which the French king returned to Paris, and made a public entry into that city. The allies were inactive while theſe conqueſts were made.

The king of Pruſſia on his ſide opened the campaign in January, when his general Lehwald entered Sileſia, defeated a body of 12,000 Auſtrians, and took the town of Ratibor by aſſault. In May he entered it himſelf with 70,000 men: prince Charles of Lorrain, who had been joined by 20,000 Saxons, alſo entered it to check his progreſs.

On the 4th of June, in the plains of Strigau near Friedburgh they met, and an obſtinate battle enſued, which was maintained with great vigour from morning till noon; when the Saxons giving way, the Auſtrain army quitted the field with the loſs of 12,000 men. Both armies ſoon after entered Bohemia, the king of Pruſſia encamped at Sohr, where the Auſtrains attempted to ſurprize him at day break on the laſt day of September; but the Pruſſians were prepared for them, and after a conteſt of four hours, they retired with the loſs of 5000 men, though ſome of their irregulars found means to pillage the king's camp, carry off his military cheſt, the officers of his chancery, and his own ſecretary, with all the papers of his cabinet. After this action the king of Pruſſia retired to Berlin, but in a ſhort time he returned to Saxony, where he ſeized upon Dreſden, and other principal cities; defeated the Saxons, and laid their Electorate under contribution. The king of Poland out of compaſſion for the ſufferings of his hereditary dominions, as ſoon as poſſible concluded a peace at Dreſden with the invader; and another was alſo ſigned between Auſtria and Pruſſia; both under the mediation of the king of Great-Britain, with whom

whom the king of Pruſſia had concluded a convention ſome time before.

In Italy the French and Spaniards were again victorious, they engaged the Genoeſe in their intereſt, and having joined all their forces, they entered the king of Sardinia's dominions like a torrent, ſubdued all the towns before them, ſtripped him of all his territories, and even threatened to beſiege Turin, his capital. At this time propoſals of a ſeparate accommodation were made to him, but he rejected them, and continued firm to his former engagements. Admiral Rowley who commanded the Britiſh fleet in the Mediterranean, detached commodore Cowper to bombard Genoa, Final, and St. Remo in Italy, and Baſtia in the iſland of Corſica.

Among the Britiſh naval tranſactions, the moſt important was the taking of Louiſbourg. The plan had been formed at Boſton in New England, and afterwards recommended to the king, who approved of the deſign, and ordered commodore Warren, ſtationed at that time off the Leeward Iſlands, to repair to New-England and co-operate with the forces of that country in an expedition. Six thouſand provincials were aſſembled under the command of Mr. Pepperel, a trader of Piſcatancury, and a man of great influence, but entirely unacquainted with military operations. In April the troops were embarked and re-inforced by 800 marines. They landed on the iſland of Cape Breton, without oppoſition, on the laſt day of April; and immediately formed the ſiege of Louiſbourg, which was defended by 1200 men. After a ſiege of 49 days the place ſurrendered, to the great honour of both the officers and men; the loſs on both ſides was trifling.

We ſhall next proceed to give an account of a tranſaction the moſt material in the whole reign, that is the rebellion, which broke out in this year. Though the French fleet intended to invade England

land, was laſt year diſperſed by a ſtorm, yet the prince pretender conceived great hopes from his deſign. He thought that his appearance in the dominions of his anceſtors, would almoſt of itſelf bring about a revolution; but it muſt be obſerved that he had been cajoled by thoſe who were too ſanguine well-wiſhers to his fathers houſe, who miſrepreſented to him the ſtate of affairs in England, by ſwelling them to monſtrous exaggerations in his favour *. The French miniſtry, only from a motive of embarraſſing the Britiſh government, and kindling a flame in the bowels of the kingdom, that they might the more effectually puſh on their deſigns elſewhere, ſupplied him with a ſum of money, and lent

* Impartiality obliges us to declare that the —— did not at this time ſo firmly enjoy the affections of his people, as when he began his reign. His viſible protection of Sir Robert Walpole, firſt created a diſguſt among the people: his fondneſs for Hanover, his frequent journeys to it, the plunging of Great-Britain into the myſterious, cauſeleſs, and expenſive quarrels of a parcel of petty princes on the continent, merely to ſhield a puny electorate, the whole revenues of which are not equal to the income of ſome Britiſh ſubjects, and the enormous taxes continually levied to ſupport theſe extraneous burdens, did, we muſt confeſs, work great diſcontents in almoſt every part of the nation. The Scots at this time were peculiarly irritated by a tranſaction of leſs moment. Some time ago a regiment had been raiſed in their country, upon a promiſe that they ſhould not be ſent abroad: But contrary to that ſtipulation, they were ſent to Germany: however, before they embarked a number of them deſerted; they were purſued and over-taken, and brought pinioned to London. Three of the principal, who happened to be men of note among the Highlands, were ſhot, and the reſt were tranſported to America. The clans of Scotland reſented their fate as a national outrage, they were ſtimulated to revenge, and were keen and eager for an inſurrection; and perhaps from this incident the pretender was encouraged by his friends, to land in Scotland; and though there was no longer a fleet to ſupport his meaſures, the opportunity, which now offered, was extremely favourable; king George was gone to Hanover, Scotland was without troops, and the Highlanders were ready to join him.

lent him a ſmall frigate, and promiſed him a reinforcement of arms. He embarked at port St. Lazara in Brittany, on the 14th day of July, attended by the marquiſs of Tullibardine, Sir Thomas Sheridan, and a few other Iriſh and Scottiſh adventurers. For a ſhort time this frigate was convoyed by the Elizabeth, a French man of war, but ſhe meeting with the Lion an Engliſh ſhip, a deſperate engagement enſued, by which, before they parted, they were both ſo ſhattered as to be unfit to keep the ſea. The frigate however purſued her courſe to the weſtern iſles of Scotland, and Charles landed on the coaſt of Lochaber, where in a ſhort time he was joined by great numbers.

When the news of this deſcent arrived in England, the government treated it as a chimera, but being ſoon convinced of their miſtake, they ſent to Germany for the king. Sir John Cope, who commanded the Britiſh troops in the North, was ordered to attack the pretender, who by this time had aſſembled 3000 men at Perth, proclaimed his father, publiſhed manifeſtoes, commenced hoſtilities, diſarmed two companies of the king's troops, and in terrorem, ſtruck the whole kingdom with conſternation. The government offered 30,000l. for his head; they called over ſix Britiſh regiments from the continent, and the whole kingdom began to make the utmoſt preparations to repel the deſigns of the invader. Charles, unmindful of the unanimity which appeared in England againſt his cauſe, ſtill flattered himſelf that his appearance in the bowels of the kingdom, would alter the opinions of the people. When he began his march for Edinburgh, his army at beſt was but like a rabble almoſt in nakedneſs, and deteſtitute of proper arms, yet did this bold adventurer at the age of twenty-five, take poſſeſſion of the capital of Scotland, and prepare to beſiege the caſtle, though a ſtrong fortreſs, and defended by the brave

and

and experienced general Gueſt. Sir John Cope, who had been haſtening after the rebel army, was now at Preſton Pans, with about 3000 men. Charles's army, ſince he had entered Edinburgh, was increaſed to 4000, and with theſe he reſolved to attack the king's troops, which he did in the morning of the 20th of September. In leſs than ten minutes his highlanders, with ſword in hand, routed Sir John Cope, and drove his troops towards Berwick, with the loſs of every thing they had upon the field, and near 500 of them were ſlain, among whom was colonel Gardiner; but not 100 of the inſurgents loſt their lives. The victors returned in triumph to Edinburgh, and levied contributions. They, by this victory, got arms, a train of artillery, a great deal of baggage, and a conſiderable ſum of money in the royal military cheſt: the influence of the pretender now became great, and he was in poſſeſſion of all Scotland, except the fortreſſes. He likewiſe received aſſiſtance in money and arms from France by ſingle ſhips, and was joined by the lords Kilmarnock, Elcho, Balmerino, Ogilvy, Pitſligo, and lord Lovat's ſon. The duke of Argyle, the earl of Sutherland, the lord Rae, and many other gentlemen of Scotland, and the north of England, raiſed men and armed their vaſſals for the ſervice of king George.

When the news of Sir John Cope's defeat arrived in England, the kingdom was effectually alarmed. Six thouſand Dutch troops were immediately ſent for, three battalions of guards, and ſeven regiments of infantry, were brought over from Flanders, and all marched to Newcaſtle, under the command of general Wade. In October the parliament met, and preſented loyal addreſſes to the king, ſignifying their zealous attachment to his perſon and government. Soon after, the Duke of Cumberland came over from Flanders, followed by another detachment of dragoons and infantry. The ſeveral regiments in Eng-

land were compleated as faſt as poſſible. The trained-bands in London were ready, and volunteers all over the kingdom were employed in the exerciſe of arms. The government were apprehenſive of a viſit from France on the ſouthern coaſt; therefore admiral Vernon was appointed to watch the enemy's ports of Dunkirk and Boulogne; he took ſeveral veſſels laden with ſoldiers and ammunition deſtined for the aſſiſtance of the pretender, and it muſt be allowed, that Vernon's indefatigable vigilance on this occaſion, deſerves the higheſt commendation; for if the enemy really had a deſign of favouring the cauſe of the pretender by a deſcent on England, he certainly prevented them.

In the mean time, the pretender, at the head of between 5 and 6000 men marched to Carliſle, and beſieged it: in three days the place ſurrendered, and he found in it a conſiderable quantity of arms. General Wade marched acroſs the country to relieve Carliſle, but hearing it was reduced, he returned to Newcaſtle. Notwithſtanding the country at this time was covered with ſnow, the pretender determined to enter England, and by a rapid march he reached Mancheſter in Lancaſhire on the 28th of November, where his arrival was celebrated with public rejoicings, and his party joined by many inhabitants of the towns through which he paſſed. He then advanced through Cheſhire into Derbyſhire, and entered the town of Derby on the 4th of December, within 100 miles of London. The whole kingdom was filled with terror and confuſion; his ſudden and expeditious march was the aſtoniſhment of every body. A camp was formed on Finchley Common, where the king himſelf took the field, accompanied by the brave old earl of Stair, now called again into the ſervice to prevent the young adventurer entering the capital, which was filled with conſternation, and where his friends were numerous. The duke of Cumber-

Cumberland took the command of a corps of the king's troops aſſembled near Litchfield, but the rebels gained a march between them and London. Wade, in Yorkſhire, was not over vigilant; he ſeemed to linger; though it muſt be allowed the roads in this winter ſeaſon were almoſt impaſſable. The rebel chiefs at Derby called a council, in which violent diſputes aroſe; ſome were for advancing directly to the capital, others for going into Wales, which was indeed moſt feaſible, but the majority determined to go back to Scotland. Accordingly on the 6th of December they abandoned Derby, and retreated through Lancaſhire with great ſpeed. The duke of Cumberland immediately began a purſuit; ſome ſkirmiſhes happened between the van and rear guards but nothing material. The rebels continued their retreat, and reached Carliſle on the 19th of December. Thus began and ended the pretender's expedition into England; in which it muſt be confeſſed his army did not commit thoſe irregularities and ravages which might have been expected from ſuch a banditti; and upon the whole, we cannot help looking on this enterpriſe as the moſt deſperate attempt which the family of the Stuarts ever made to regain the crown ſince the abdication of James the ſecond *.

The

* The ſupplies granted by parliament for the enſuing year conſiderably exceeded ſeven millions. But before this enormous ſum was granted, there were ſeveral diſputes in the cabinet. The earl of Granville, late lord Carteret, made an effort to regain his influence, and by the favour of the k—— he carried his point. The d—— of N——— and his brother took umbrage at his riſe to power: they ſtrengthened their party; but ſome of theſe auxiliaries were diſagreeable to the king, and were accordingly rejected: failing in this, the whole party reſigned their employments, and the earl of Granville became ſecretary of ſtate; but finding he had not ſtrength enough to withſtand the weight of his opponents, nor even to gain the ſupplies from parliament; and beſides, being fearful of their power and influence, he prudently reſigned in three days. The k— then acquieſced in the meaſures of the brothers, and rein-

The rebel army after reinforcing the garriſon of Carliſle, entered Scotland. The duke of Cumberland inveſted Carliſle on the 21ſt of December, but Hamilton, the governor, did not ſurrender till the 30th. The garriſon were impriſoned in different gaols, and the duke returned to London.

In 1746 the pretender retired to Dumfries, and levied there and at Glaſgow heavy contributions. He was joined by lord Lewis Gordon who had raiſed a corps for his ſervice, and by lord John Drummond, who was lately arrived from France with a corps of French and Iriſh. They were alſo joined by the earl of Cromartie, and a ſmall train of artillery; and their whole force amounted to near 8000 men. Several places were taken, ſome troops raiſed for the ſervice of the king defeated, and the caſtle of Stirling was inveſted, though but ſlovenly. A new army of 10,000 men was aſſembled in Scotland to oppoſe the progreſs of the rebels, and the command of it given to general Hawley, who was held in but very indifferent eſteem. He relieved Stirling, which was defended by general Blakeney, and encamped near Falkirk, where on the 17th of February the two armies came to an action. The rebels had taken poſſeſſion of an eminence from which they repulſed the king's troops as they advanced to the charge, who had moreover the diſadvantage of a high wind and heavy rain in their faces. They had only given one irregular fire when they were ſeized with a panic and fled. Some few under general Huſke made a brave ſtand, which favoured the retreat of the reſt to Falkirk. The field of battle was left to the rebels, who found upon it the artillery and tents of the fugitives. The loſs among the king's troops was conſiderable, but the govern-

ſtated their party in their reſpective employments. William Pitt, Eſq; who was originally deſigned for the army, was at this time appointed vice-treaſurer of Ireland, and ſoon after pay-maſter-general of the forces, and a privy counſellor.

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ment never told the exact number; they pretended not three hundred, but the conquerors loſt two hundred. After this victory the rebels took Fort Auguſtus. On the other hand it was judged expedient to put the royal army under the command of the duke of Cumberland, as he was the darling of the ſoldiery, and the king's ſon. The Dutch troops being at this time recalled, 6000 Heſſians were brought over in their ſtead, commanded by the prince of Heſſe, ſon-in-law to the king. The rebel army proceeded northward, and were followed by the royal army: they undertook the ſiege of Fort William, but the Heſſians obliged them to abandon it; however they beat up the earl of Loudon's quarters and took ſome priſoners. The duke of Cumberland, who had advanced to Aberdeen, left that place at the beginning of April, and paſſed the Spey in ſight of part of the rebel army, who were ſo ſtupid as to permit him to do it without oppoſition. The pretender was at this time at Inverneſs, but ſoon after, he proceeded to Culloden. The duke reſolved to give him battle becauſe the French continued to make preparations at Dunkirk and Boulogne for a deſcent on England. Accordingly early on the 16th he advanced to Culloden, where the rebels, to the number of 8000 men, and ſome pieces of artillery, were drawn up in order of battle. The royal army exceeded that number. About noon the cannonade began, which on the part of the rebels did very little execution. To make amends for this defect, part of their right wing charged ſword in hand; but by ſuperior force were repulſed with great ſlaughter: their flank became next expoſed to an unexpected attack which threw them into confuſion, and they fled on all ſides. Bland's and Barrel's regiments in the king's army, behaved with great bravery. In half an hour the pretender's forces were totally routed, and upwards of 3000 of them were ſlain. The earl of Kilmarnock was taken priſoner, and ſome ladies; but the

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pretender fled, and was afterwards expoſed to incredible hardſhips, hunger and fatigue. The lords Balmerino and Cromartie were afterwards taken, and it muſt be owned that many horrid ravages and barbarities were committed by the royal troops; they maſſacred in cold blood great numbers; they ſullied the glory of the victory by the moſt unheard of cruelties: the rebellion was extinguiſhed by a wanton ſcene of carnage, in which the innocent and guilty were ſlain undiſtinguiſhed. A few days after lord Balmerino was taken, and he with the lords Kilmarnock and Cromartie were conveyed to the Tower of London, to which alſo a brother to the earl of Dunmore, the marquis of Tullibardine, and Murray the pretender's ſecretary, were ſent The other priſoners of leſs note were confined in different gaols in Great Britain, but ſome who were put on board veſſels to be conveyed from Scotland to England were ſuffocated in the holds for want of air. The pretender wandered about a forlorn fugitive for the ſpace of four months; during which he underwent the moſt ſevere hardſhips both of body and mind, and narrow eſcapes from his purſuers, as perhaps no one perſon ever outlived. At length a privateer from St. Maloes took him away on the 17th of September in wretched apparel. In England the people were tranſported with joy at the news of this victory, and extolled the duke of Cumberland as a hero and deliverer, and the parliament with their thanks added 25,000 l. per annum to his former revenue.

The royal army, after the victory of Culloden, proceeded into the north, and reduced all the places. Detachments were ſent off on every ſide, and they butchered, plundered, burned and deſtroyed every man and beaſt, hut and houſe: even the women were violated, and afterwards either aſſaſſinated or turned out with their children to ſtarve on the barren

ren heaths. In a word, the moſt ſhocking barbarities and ravages were committed that ever diſgraced humanity, or ever Engliſhmen before were guilty of; even through the rude ages of former times we don't remember to have read of ſuch cruel murders, rapine, and deſtruction by fire. In a little time, for the ſpace of fifty miles, nothing was to be ſeen but ſilence, ruin and deſolation.

The government reſolving to make examples of thoſe rebels whom they had ſecured, executed a great number of them in different parts of the kingdom, and tranſported the reſt to America, except a few who obtained pardons. The lord Balmerino and the earls of Kilmarnock and Cromartie were tried by their peers in Weſtminſter hall; the two laſt pleaded guilty, and the former was found ſo: however Cromartie was ſpared, and Balmerino and Kilmarnock were in Auguſt beheaded on Tower hill. Mr. Ratcliff, the titular earl of Derwentwater, was tried for being concerned in the rebellion in the year 1715; the identity of his perſon being proved he was beheaded in December following. And in 1747 lord Lovat, who was upwards of eighty years of age, was taken and tried for treaſonable practices in the preſent rebellion. Murray, the pretender's ſecretary, and ſome of his own domeſtics were evidences againſt him. He alſo ſuffered decapitation at the ſame place.

The affairs in Flanders wore a bad aſpect for the allies. The Dutch, during the winter, had ſolicited the king of Great Britain to augment the allied army, that it might be ſuperior to the enemy, in order to check their progreſs; but however willing he might be to comply with their requeſt, he could not; the rebellion in his kingdom, and diſſentions in his cabinet ſo embarraſſed him, that he found it impoſſible. The allies for a while were commanded by M. Bathiani, an Auſtrian general. The French were commanded by their king and marſhal Saxe, who inveſted

ed Antwerp, and took it in a few days; and with a prodigious train of artillery he reduced the ſtrong towns of Mons, St. Guiſlain and Charleroi, and by the middle of July the French king was maſter of Flanders, Brabant, and Hainault. Prince Charles of Lorrain by this time had taken the command of the allies, who were now reinforced by the Heſſians from Scotland, and judging the enemy would next attack the ſtrong and important town of Namur, he took poſt for its defence, but marſhal Saxe took his meaſures ſo well that he not only deprived prince Charles of his principal magazines, but alſo of getting any ſubſiſtence in his preſent ſituation; therefore he was obliged to retreat and abandon Namur to the fury of the enemy. This fortreſs was taken after a ſiege of twenty one days; during which, the garriſon, conſiſting of 7000 Auſtrians, ſuſtained ſo terrible a cannonade and bombardment, as converted the whole place into a heap of rubbiſh. Prince Charles, during this ſiege, intended to attack the enemy, but he found them too advantageouſly poſted: he was joined by Sir John Ligonier with ſome Britiſh and Bavarian battalions. Marſhal Saxe was alſo reinforced by a corps under count de Clermont; and after the reduction of Namur he determined to bring the allies to an engagement; but they retreated over the Jaar, and took poſſeſſion of the villages of Liers, Warem and Roucoux. He alſo paſſed the Jaar, and on the firſt of October advanced to give them battle. The villages, defended principally by the Engliſh, were at length carried by the French troops, after a very obſtinate and bloody diſpute, in which the allies loſt at leaſt 5000 men and their artillery; they retreated over the Maeſe, and the campaign ended.

As the Auſtrians were no longer attacked by the French in Germany, they were the better enabled to drive them out of Italy; and the king of Sardinia, by the help of his Britiſh ſubſidy, acted with great ſpirit againſt

againſt the French and Spaniards, who were obliged to abandon Piedmont and Milan, and retreat with precipitation. The Piedmonteze troops retook ſeveral places, and relieved others which had been blocked up by the enemy during the winter. The Spaniſh and French effected a junction, and, finding their army amounted to 52,000 men, they reſolved to attack the Auſtrian intrenchments near Placentia. With this view they marched with great ſilence and expedition, and, entering the trenches, a deſperate battle enſued, in which the Auſtrians had by far the worſe part, till, quitting their trenches, they, in their turn, attacked the enemy with great fury, and, after killing near 6000 of them, and throwing them into utter confuſion, obliged them to fly to Placentia. The king of Sardinia joined the Auſtrians, and, marching after the fugitives, attacked them again at Rotto Freddo, and, after an obſtinate engagement, obliged them to retire towards Genoa, leaving almoſt 5000 men killed on the field of battle. He then took Placentia, in which there was a garriſon of 9000 men. The enemy, upon hearing this news, retreated into Provence in France, and the Auſtrians obliged Genoa to ſurrender, and deliver up their arms as well as money. General Botta was left in it with 16000 men, while general Brown, another Auſtrian general, entered Provence in purſuit of the enemy. He was aſſiſted on this occaſion by the Britiſh ſquadron in the Mediterranean under admiral Medley. An army of French troops under marſhal Belleiſle, which had been intended to oppoſe his progreſs, retreated before him: he paſſed the Var, and inveſted Antibes, while Medley bombarded it; but Belleiſle, having aſſembled a ſuperior army, obliged him to raiſe the ſiege, and repaſs the Var with loſs. The Genoeſe, in the mean time, were ſo exaſperated at the cruel treatment of the Auſtrians, that they reſolved to recover their liberty or periſh in the at-

tempt; they ſeized arms in ſecret, and, ſecuring ſome parts of the city, attacked the Auſtrians with great fury, ſurrounded ſome, and cut them to pieces. Botta acted with caution and ſpirit, but he was drove out of the city with great ſlaughter.

The naval tranſactions this year were trifling, and almoſt contemptuous. In the Eaſt Indies, where the Britiſh company had been extremely negligent, commodore Peyton declined fighting a French ſquadron of inferior force: he abandoned the coaſt of Coromandel, while the French took Madraſs. The Britiſh government, after the reduction of Louiſbourg, formed a deſign of attacking Quebec, the capital of Canada; but the fleet, which was to ſet ſail from England on this expedition, was delayed by ſome unaccountable means, till the ſeaſon was over. As this deſign was rendered abortive, it was reſolved to employ it in an attempt on the French coaſt. The land forces, amounting to 5800 men, were commanded by general Sinclair, and the fleet was under the direction of admiral Leſtock. Sinclair landed near L'Orient, and laid ſiege to that city, but in ſo aukward a manner, that he was obliged to abandon it, at the repeated ſolicitations of admiral Leſtock. In the Weſt Indies commodore Mitchel, after a ſcandalous fight, permitted a French ſquadron to return to Europe, for which he was broke. The merchants loudly complained of their commerce being badly protected.

In the month of July the king of Spain died, and was ſucceeded by his ſon Ferdinand, who, the allies apprehended was well affected to Great Britain, and extremely deſirous of peace. The States General, who had not yet declared war againſt France, begged for peace at the court of Verſailles by ſeveral remonſtrances, and at length the French ſhewed an inclination to hold a congreſs, which was opened at Breda;

Breda; but their demands were ſo inſolent, that it was ſoon broke up.

The parliament met in November. The ſupplies, which exceeded nine millions, were granted. The king told them, that the funds appropriated for the ſupport of his civil government, had for ſome years paſt fallen ſhort of the revenue granted by parliament, and he relied on them to make good this deficiency. The parliament was diſſolved, though the term of ſeven years, ſince its firſt meeting, was not expired *.

During the winter the duke of Cumberland went over to the Hague to concert with the Dutch the operations of the campaign for 1747. The Dutch agreed to act vigorouſly, finding that all their remonſtrances to the French king had failed. In February the allies took the field, amounting in the whole to 120,000 men, under the command of his royal highneſs: they lay inactive ſix weeks expoſed

* This diſſolution is accounted for two ways. The miniſtry inſinuated, that the Dutch, and other allies, were unwilling to act vigorouſly againſt France, while this parliament exiſted, becauſe it had undergone a change in its complexion. The country party declared, the allies had no reaſon to be ſuſpicious of a parliament which had granted them ſuch liberal ſupplies: and as the parliament muſt ſoon be diſmiſſed by law, the intention of the miniſtry was no other, than to ſurpriſe the kingdom with a new election, before there were any preparations made for an oppoſition. Certain it is, none of the allies had cauſe to be diſguſted with the Britiſh parliament; for this nation now numbered among its mercenaries, two empreſſes, one king, and five German princes, all hired to trim the balance of Europe, in which they had all a primary concern, and England, at moſt, but a ſecondary one. The ſupplies this year exceeded, by two millions and a half, the greateſt annual ſum that was raiſed during the reign of queen Anne; and the Britiſh arms at this time were deſpiſed by her enemies, and her councils ridiculed throughout Europe. She engaged in blundering negociations, and rafhly entered into foreign quarrels: by this conduct ſhe became fantaſtical, puſillanimous, and vain, which occaſioned the war on her part to be ſpiritleſs, ruinous, and diſhonourable.

to the ſeverity of the weather, and almoſt deſtitute of proviſion and forage: this created a ſickneſs and mortality among them, by which they were conſiderably weakened. The French troops continued in their winter quarters till April, when marſhal Saxe declared, that he would convince the duke of Cumberland, that the firſt care of a prudent general is to provide for the health and preſervation of his troops. The French began their operations with taking the towns of Sluys, Sas-van-Ghent, and Hulſt, which ſo frightened the Dutch, that they imagined the French were at their very doors. The conquerors ſhewed a deſign of puſhing forward, by preparing to invade Zealand; but this ſcheme was fruſtrated by a Britiſh ſquadron deſtined to act for their preſervation. The Dutch now came to a reſolution of electing the prince of Orange ſtadtholder, and commencing hoſtilites. Mean while the duke of Cumberland took poſt in order to cover Bergen-op-zoom, and marſhal Saxe threatened to beſiege Maeſtricht, which the allies being apprized of, haſtened to its relief, and this brought on the battle of Laffelt, or Val, which was fought on the 21ſt of June. The village of Laffelt was attacked by theFrench with aſtoniſhing intrepidity,and as bravely defended by the allies; it was three times loſt and won with prodigious ſlaughter, but at length the French infantry poſſeſſed it by ſuperior numbers; their cavalry was next brought to action, and the Dutch horſe immediately fled off the field, and overthrew the rear of the allies; marſhal Saxe, in the midſt of this confuſion, made ſo vigorous a charge with his cavalry, that he ſeparated the allied army in the centre. The diſpoſition of the allies was ſuch, that the Auſtrians could not act, and the defeat was now expected every moment to become total, when Sir John Ligonier took a reſolution of ſacrificing himſelf, and a part of the troops to the ſafety of the army; he, with three regiments of

Britiſh

Britiſh dragoons, and ſome ſquadrons of Imperial horſe, attacked the whole line of the enemies cavalry with ſuch incredible impetuoſity as to overthrow all that oppoſed him, while the duke of Cumberland effected a tolerable retreat to Maeſtricht: ſome of his troops got ſafe to that town, but he himſelf was taken by a French carbineer. The allies loſt at leaſt 6000 men; though Ligonier's bravery enabled them to carry off the principal part of their cannon *. However they reſolved to cover Maeſtricht, and, with that view, they croſſed the Maeſe. But Saxe's deſign was not to attack this fortreſs, though he amuſed the allies that way; he detached, on a ſudden, count Lowendahl, with 36,000 men, to beſiege Bergen-op-zoom, the favourite work of the famous Coehorn, and ſuppoſed to be an impregnable fortification. The governor, old baron Cronſtrom, was ſummoned on the 12th of July, and the prince of Saxe-Hilburghauſen entered the lines of the town with twenty battalions, and fourteen ſquadrons for its relief. The attention of all Europe was fixed on this important ſiege, which was carried on with ſurpriſing alacrity, and the place as bravely defended. From the 16th day of July to the 15th day of September the fire was the hotteſt that ever was known; nothing was to be ſeen but fire, ſmoke, and ſlain, nothing heard but the unintermitting roar of bombs and cannon. The French loſt an incredible number of men, but Saxe continued to ſend reinforcements.

* The cauſe of the confederates has been ſhrewdly ſuſpected to have ſuffered through the ignorance and pride of the commanders. On the eve of the battle marſhal Bathiani, the Auſtrian general, deſired leave to attack one of the enemies advanced poſts, declaring he would anſwer for the ſucceſs of the enterprize; but the commander aſked him where he ſhould be in caſe he was wanted, "I ſhall always be at the head of my troops" replied Bathiani, and retired in diſguſt. As to the diſpoſition, it is certain all the allies could not act; but the whole of the French force was exerted.

Cron-

Cronſtrom believed the place impregnable, by which he was lulled into a falſe ſecurity. He has been accuſed of treacherouſly giving up the town, of being indolent, &c. but all theſe are untrue; the caſe was different: Lowendahl was informed the day before he made the aſſault, that there were two ſpies from the town in his trenches, he went directly to where they were, and ſwore aloud, that the two breaches which had juſt been made, would not be practicable theſe eight and forty hours, and affected to be in a great paſſion with the engineers; then he gave private orders, that the ſpies ſhould not be moleſted. They returned to Cronſtrom, and told him what had happened. Lowendahl reſolved to attack the town that night; and though meſſages were repeatedly brought to the governor of the enemies advancing, he believed it to be all a feint, relying on the intelligence of his ſpies; or it is certain he might have prevented the French from entering the town ſo ſoon as they did, which was at four o'clock in the morning, on the 16th of September. The garriſon were ſurpriſed, the governor was aſleep, but they did not ceaſe to defend the town from ſtreet to ſtreet, and a prodigious ſlaughter was every where made, till at length, overpowered by numbers, they retreated to the lines, from which the whole army fled in the utmoſt precipitation. The French and allies now went into winter quarters.

In Italy the French were not ſo ſucceſsful. The Auſtrians laid ſiege to Genoa, but were obliged to raiſe it. Marſhal Belleiſle, at the head of a fine French army, entered Italy, and his brother the count de Belleiſle attempted to enter Piedmont by the paſs of Exiles; but the Piedmonteze had thrown up intrenchments to diſpute his paſſage; he attacked them, but had the mortification to miſcarry, and in making another effort he was killed, by which his army was diſpirited and fled. When the marſhal was informed

formed of his brother's misfortune he retreated, and the campaign ended without any other material event happening.

The naval tranſactions this year were more glorious to Great Britain, than thoſe heretofore. The French equipped two ſquadrons, one deſtined to retake the Britiſh conqueſts in America, and the other for Aſia. The Britiſh miniſtry having advice of their intentions, directed the admirals Anſon and Warren to put to ſea, and intercept their fleets, and they had the good fortune to fall in with the enemy, conſiſting of five ſhips of the line, ten frigates, and thirty merchantmen under convoy. Warren adviſed the attack with ſuch wiſdom and good regulation, that all the ſhips of war were taken, though the convoy eſcaped, which he could not prevent. It appeared from the priſoners that they were ſhortly to have ſeparated in order to execute the deſigns before mentioned, and that they had ſome treaſure on board. The brave captain Grenville of the Defiance was killed. Mr. Anſon was made a lord, though the victory was principally owing to Mr Warren, who received the honour of the Bath. About this time the government having received intelligence that the French American fleet, amounting to near two hundred and fifty ſail, were on their voyage home, they ſent admiral Hawke with a fleet from Plymouth to intercept them: he eſpied them off cape Finiſterre, and after a long and obſtinate fight, in which the French behaved with uncommon bravery, he took ſix ſhips of war.

The parliament met on the 10th of November, and granted a ſum exceeding eight millions for the ſervice of the following year: they prohibited the inſurance of French ſhips, and trafficking in any part of the French dominions. The ſeſſion ended in May, 1748, and the king embarked to viſit his German dominions.

At

At the beginning of the year 1748, all the belligerants ſeemed heartily tired of the war. The conferences to treat on peace were opened at Aix-la-Chapelle. The preparations for carrying on the war were extraordinary; the allies hired a large body of Ruſſians to aſſiſt them in driving the French out of the Netherlands; but the French laid ſiege to Maeſtricht, and after carrying on their operations for eighteen days in a furious manner, the place ſurrendered; however the garriſon obtained the honours of war. By this time the preliminaries for peace were ſigned, a ceſſation of arms enſued, and the Ruſſians, after they had marched ſeven hundred miles, were ordered to return to their own country *.

Admiral Knowles in America made ſome attempts on St. Jago de Cuba, but he failed. He then attacked Port Louis in Hiſpaniola and took it. He cruized for the Spaniſh plate-fleet, and had the good fortune to fall in with it, but after an attack of a whole day, the enemy got off, without permitting any of their ſhips to fall into the hands of the Engliſh, for which Knowles and his officers charged each

* Great Britain had reaſon to be diſſatisfied with the conduct of her allies: their numerous armies, which ſhe paid, lay for the moſt part inactive, while they beheld the conqueſts of the enemy. They were cowardly in the day of battle, and ſuffered themſelves to be defeated, when there was the faireſt proſpect of their gaining the victory. But why a ceſſation of arms ſhould at this time be agreed upon, is matter of aſtoniſhment; when their affairs began to put on a more favourable countenance, and the Ruſſian auxiliaries would have given the ſuperiority in the field: it was the misfortune of the allies, that their miniſters negociated as their generals fought. If France had not lately ſuffered in her marine, it is a doubt, in the opinions of many intelligent perſons, whether ſhe would have conſented to a peace, till ſhe had further purſued her advantages in the Netherlands. The diſtreſſes of her commerce were in a great meaſure productive of a famine, which at this time overſpread the face of the whole country, and reduced the people in many principal towns to great difficulties for proviſions.

other

other with miſconduct, and were inflamed with the moſt rancorous animoſity. A court-martial was held, at which Knowles, with two of his captains were cenſured. Afterwards captain Powlet had a bloodleſs encounter with him; but capt. Innes and capt. Clarke, meeting by appointment in Hyde-Park, the former was killed. Laſt year admiral Boſcawen was ſent to the Eaſt Indies, and this year he had ſo far retrieved the Britiſh affairs there, as to be able to undertake the ſiege of Pondicherry, the French capital; but notwithſtanding all his vigilance and bravery, he was obliged to raiſe the ſiege, by a ſickneſs among his troops, and the great rains of the monſoon ſeaſon.

By this time the miniſters at Aix-la-Chapelle, after ſome warm diſputes, ſigned the treaty of peace. The contracting powers, the kings of Great Britain, France, Spain and Sardinia, her Imperial majeſty, the Dutch, Genoeſe and Modeneze, agreed that the priſoners on all ſides ſhould be releaſed without ranſom, and all conqueſts reſtored. The duchies of Parma, Placentia, and Guaſtalla, to be ceded as a ſettlement to the infant don Philip, and his male heirs; but in caſe of his becoming king of Spain, or of the two Sicilies, thoſe duchies ſhould then revert to the houſe of Auſtria. The king of Great Britain was to reſtore Cape Breton, and all his other conqueſts in the Eaſt or Weſt-Indies, and two perſons of diſtinction were to be ſent to France as hoſtages, until thoſe articles were fulfilled. All the contracting powers were guarantees to the king of Pruſſia for Sileſia and Glatz, as he then poſſeſſed them, and likewiſe to her imperial majeſty for her hereditary dominions, according to the pragmatic ſanction. Such was the ſubſtance of this famous treaty, which occaſioned great diſguſt in England. The ſending the nobles of the realm to grace an enemy's court for ſuſpected faith, was a diſgrace few

could brook with. The reſtitution of Louiſbourg was loudly complained againſt by almoſt every individual; but a general diſſatisfaction aroſe among the more ſenſible part of mankind, on perceiving that this definitive treaty left the right of Britiſh ſubjects to navigate in the American ſeas, without ſearch, unmentioned. This had been the original ſource of all the differences between Great-Britain and Spain; and it was ſtrange that the firſt object of the war ſhould be thus forgot. The limits of Acadia, or Nova Scotia, and other Britiſh colonies in America, were alſo left unſettled; but they were referred to the deciſion of commiſſaries. The myſtery is unriddled when we recollect that as ſoon as the troubles in the empire broke out, the war was no longer conducted on Britiſh principles: and this accounts for the vaſt blood and treaſure which were expended during the courſe of this war, and for the public debts, which at this time amounted to eighty millions!

Though Great Britain ſecured to herſelf no advantage by this treaty, yet Holland was delivered from the brink of a French invaſion, and France had a golden opportunity for recruiting her maritime ſtrength. Count Maurepas, the miniſter of the French marine, had ſometime ago produced a plan for making the navy of France more formidable than thoſe of England and Holland united, and for ſtripping the Engliſh of all their poſſeſſions in America and Aſia. He was greatly inclined for peace, in order to put his favourite plan in execution, and it is believed, that the arguments which he made uſe of, influenced the French king to conclude it ſooner than he otherwiſe would have done. As ſoon as peace was ſigned, orders were immediately given for building men of war in every port in France. At the ſame time a number of artificers, who had been impoliticly diſcharged from their employments under

der the government in England, hearing of the encouragement offered in France, went over to the enemy, and were of ſeaſonable aſſiſtance to Maurepas. As it was intended to diſpoſſeſs the Engliſh of their colonies in America, the Indians in that country were tampered with, and by ſeveral arts and allurements brought over to the intereſt of the French; nay, ſo flagrant were they in theſe acts of debauchery, that three pounds ſterling were offered by the governor of Canada, for every Britiſh ſcalp that ſhould be brought in by a Canadian.

By the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, it was ſtipulated that the pretender ſhould not reſide in the French dominions; and the French king gave him notice of it; but the prince not minding this warning, he was ſeized by ſome troops, and ſent out of the kingdom under a guard. It was not till this time that king George ſaw himſelf firmly and immoveably ſeated on the throne; for while the pretender remained in the French dominions, it was the ſame as cheriſhing that youth, and opening a door for another rebellion. For this purpoſe it was ſtipulated, by the quadruple alliance, made in 1718, 'That neither the pretender, 'nor any of his deſcendants, ſhould be allowed to 'reſide within the territories belonging to any of the 'ſubſcribing parties.' And this article was inſerted in the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle; whereby it plainly appeared, that his cauſe was now abandoned by all the ſtates of Chriſtendom. This compliment, which ſeemed to be paid to the king of Great-Britain, was an excellent maſk of the chriſtian monarch's intentions. He had formed a deſign of ſeizing the iſland of Tobago, one of the neutral iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, and had actually began to put it in execution, when it happened to be detected, though it was complaiſantly diſowned at Verſailles.

The Britiſh miniſtry formed a ſcheme for making a ſettlement in Nova Scotia, and it was peculiarly eſpouſed, with uncommon warmth, by the earl of Halifax, who preſided at the board of trade, and, in compliment to his indefatigable and patriot ſervices on this occaſion, the new town, founded by governor Cornwallis on the colony, was called Halifax, and is now the fineſt harbour in North America. This ſcheme gave great uneaſineſs to the French, as this country was the firſt territory which they intended to ſeize, according to the plan of Maurepas, by which it was conſidered as a neceſſary appendage to Louiſbourg. They remonſtrated againſt this proceeding, declaring that the limits of Acadia had not been adjuſted; that they ſhould be referred to commiſſaries, and in the mean time nothing further be done.

Before the parliament met, a breach happened in the royal family. It was ſuſpected the prince of Wales had been deprived of certain rights belonging to him, in the county of Cornwall, and he held a court of ſtanery, or what is called a parliament, in order to revive theſe claims; which had they been admitted, would greatly have augmented his intereſt in the Corniſh boroughs. This tranſaction rouſed the jealouſy of the adminiſtration, by which, for a ſeries of years, theſe boroughs had been conſidered as depending on the crown. The pretenſions of his royal highneſs were therefore oppoſed by the whole weight of the miniſtry. His ſervants now joined the remnant of the oppoſition, and they were headed by the earl of Egmont, Dr. Lee, and Mr. Nugent, who were men of elocution and abilities, but not equal to thoſe who had ſhone in the late oppoſition. They numbered among their adherents, lord Bolingbroke, who reſided at Batterſea, and he was ſuſpected to be the ſecret counſellor of all their actions; for he was viſited like a ſainted ſhrine, and frequent conſultations were

were held at his houſe. The miniſterial power was at this time managed by Mr. Pelham; he was aſſiſted by Mr. Murray, ſolicitor-general, Mr. Pitt, paymaſter general, and other gentlemen, who were too powerful for the oppoſition, as well in abilities as numbers. Upon the whole, we cannot help obſerving, that though there was a great deal of acrimony vented on both ſides, yet when we diveſt them of this declamation, we ſhall find no material cauſe for diſagreement. In parliament violent diſputes aroſe: the ſupplies amounted to very near eight millions, which excited great diſguſt among the people without doors. A bill paſſed, after much altercation, which ſubjected all half-pay officers to the martial law, in the ſame manner as if they were on whole pay. A new mutiny-bill was introduced and paſſed. Both theſe bills, ſeveral ſenſible members apprehended were encroachments on the liberty of the Engliſh conſtitution, and tending to augment the influence of the crown. A bill was brought in for limiting the term of a ſoldier's ſervice: had this taken place, there would in a few years have been ſuch a rotation of ſoldiers among the common people, that every peaſant would have underſtood the exerciſe of arms, and a ſtanding army have become unneceſſary; a project not at all agreeable to the adminiſtration, for obvious reaſons, therefore it was poſtponed from time to time, and at length diſappeared. The African trade being in a declining ſtate, a bill was brought in for extending and improving this valuable branch of commerce, but it was dropt for the preſent. This was alſo the fate of a reſolution for opening the Hudſon's-bay trade. Nothing elſe material happened, and the ſeſſion ended on the 13th of June.

England at this time was infeſted by foreigners, and French linens were in great faſhion; but the prince of Wales forbid all his ſervants wearing any of them, and he was particularly induſtrious in encouraging

couraging all manufactures of a Britiſh production, by which he deſervedly gained great popularity. A riot happened at Oxford, where the pretender's health was drank by one or two intoxicated ſtudents, for which the whole univerſity was maliciouſly ſtigmatized as Jacobites, and their addreſs of congratulation to the king on the peace was rejected with diſdain. Other tumults happened in different parts of the kingdom, particularly at Litchfield races, where ſome perſons of rank were inſulted as apoſtates, and at Briſtol, where the turnpikes were pulled down.

The courts of France and Sweden were at this time very cloſely connected, at which the empreſs of Ruſſia pretended to take umbrage, though her real deſign was no other than to add the province of Finland to her empire, and ſhe actually ordered a body of troops to march towards it; but the king of Pruſſia ſtepping into the breach with his ſtanding army, declared he would attack any power that offered to moleſt the government of Sweden with which he was allied, and this produced an accommodation between the parties; but the Czarina never forgave the king of Pruſſia for intermedling, by which her ambition was diſappointed. He, at this time, was alſo meditating on the proper means of eſtabliſhing an Aſiatic company at Embden.

On the 16th of November the parliament was opened, when Sir John Hinde Cotton made an unſucceſful motion, that in their addreſs to the king, the words, *no ſearch*, ſhould be inſerted, which he founded on a vote formerly paſſed in the houſe, implying, that there ſhould be no peace while any part of the Weſt Indies remained in the poſſeſſion of the Spaniards. The intereſt on the national debt was reduced in the following manner; the creditors to receive four per cent. for one year, three and a half per cent. for ſeven years, and three per cent. ever after. A bill paſſed for the encouragement of the Britiſh herring fiſhery,

fiſhery, of which the prince of Wales was governor. Another for the encouragement of the growth of ſilk in America, and for the regulating the African trade. The election of members for Weſtminſter occaſioned much diſturbance. The candidates were lord Trentham and Sir George Vandeput; the latter, vigorouſly ſupported by the prince of Wales, and the former by the court, who, after a ſevere ſcrutiny, carried their point, and the houſe obliged Mr. Crowle, one of Sir George's council, to aſk pardon on his knees, for committing ſome illegal practices during the election, but Mr. Murray, brother to lord Elibank, who refuſed to do the ſame, was committed to Newgate, from which, as ſoon as the ſeſſion was over, he was conducted by the ſheriffs of London, with flags and ſtreamers, amidſt the acclamations of the people. This affair revived the old and idle miniſterial clamour, that a man could not be attached to the heir apparent, and cenſure the adminiſtration without being diſaffected to the king. The ſeſſion cloſed on the 12th of April, and the king proceeded directly to Hanover.

Two ſmall ſhocks of an earthquake were felt in London, at the beginning of the months of February and March, 1750, which terribly alarmed the inhabitants, and a third was erroneouſly predicted by a life-guard man, which frightened them ſtill more. In May an infectious diſtemper broke out in Newgate, which, by the priſoners, was brought into the ſeſſions room at the Old Bailey, and proved fatal to two judges, the lord mayor, and many others.

The differences with Spain were compromiſed by a treaty ſigned in October, by which the ſouth ſea company obtained 100,00 l. by way of indemnification for their claims on the Spaniſh crown; but nothing was mentioned concerning the ſearching of Britiſh ſhips on the high ſeas, though, as we have obſerved, this was the original ſource of all the differences. The

king's

king's view in going abroad was to get the arch-duke Joſeph, ſon to the emperor, elected king of the Romans: large ſubſidies were offered to the electors of Cologne, Mentz and Saxony, and one actually granted to the elector of Bavaria, amounting to 40,000 l. per ann. who promiſed his vote, and 6000 men, to act as affairs required.

When the Britiſh houſe of parliament met they exclaimed againſt this treaty, as well as that with Spain, and found great fault with both, but nothing material was done; the ſupplies exceeded five millions in this time of public tranquility.

On the 20th of March 1751, Frederic prince of Wales died in the 45th year of his age, of a pleuritic diſorder, in conſequence of a cold which he had caught in the gardens at Kew. This event overwhelmed the kingdom with grief and conſternation. He had been the patron of all polite arts, the conſtant friend of merit, and the general promoter of commerce. He was benevolent, generous, liberal, candid, and humane. He underſtood the conſtitution of Great Britain, was warmly attached to its intereſt, and ſincerely diſpoſed to aſſert the rights of mankind. In his private character he was a virtuous and affectionate huſband, a fond parent, and a kind maſter *.

Imme-

* Though he had a large family, and kept a ſplendid court, yet his œconomy was ſurpriſing, and the private debt, which he left behind him, was found to be leſs than it was in general imagined. A few days before his death he embraced his eldeſt ſon with great tenderneſs, and uttered this remarkable expreſſion, "Come, George, let us be good friends, while we are ſuffered "to be ſo." He owned himſelf to be an admirer of that maxim, which ſays, 'a monarch's glory is inſeparably connected with the happineſs of his people.' This ſentiment, which is truly conſiſtent with the genius of the Britiſh nation, could not fail of gaining him the warm affection of almoſt every individual. His conduct, generoſity, and virtue endeared him to the people; they had long ſeen a great number of meaſures taken, which were infringments

Immediately after his death a regency was appointed, conſiſting of the princeſs dowager, in caſe the crown

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fringments on their pr——; the extenſive influence of the c——, the flagrant acts of corruption among the ſervants of the c———, the many obſtacles induſtriouſly thrown into the way of every ſcheme offered to vindicate the independency of p———s, were like ſo many attacks on the bulwarks of the conſtitution; and they ſaw, that their liberties could never be ſo firmly eſtabliſhed, as by the power and influence of a patriot king. But what will render his royal highneſs's memory dear to Britiſh poſterity, is a ſtrong teſtimony, which he gave of his patriotic intentions in the following declaration, which he cauſed to be made to the principal gentlemen in the oppoſition.

"His royal highneſs has authoriſed lord T. and Sir F. D. to give the moſt poſitive aſſurances to the gentlemen in the oppoſition, of his upright intentions: that he is thoroughly convinced of the diſtreſſes and calamities that have befel, and every day are more likely to befal this country; and therefore invites all well-wiſhers to this country, and its conſtitution, to coalite and unite with him, and upon the following principles only.

His royal highneſs promiſes, and will declare it openly, that it is his intention to totally aboliſh any diſtinctions, for the future, of parties; and as far as lies in his power, and as ſoon as it does lie in his power, to take away for ever, all proſcription from any ſet of men whatever, who are friends to the conſtitution; and therefore will promote for the preſent, and when it is in his power will immediately grant,

Firſt, A bill to empower all gentlemen to act as juſtices of peace, paying land-tax for 300 l. per ann. in any county where he intends to ſerve.

Secondly, His royal highneſs promiſes, in like manner, to ſupport, and forthwith grant, whenever he ſhall have it in his power, a bill to create and eſtabliſh a numerous and effectual militia throughout the kingdom.

Thirdly, his royal highneſs promiſes, in like manner, to promote and ſupport, and likewiſe grant, when it is in his power, a bill to exclude all military officers in the land ſervice, under the degree of colonels of regiments, and in the ſea-ſervice, under the degree of rear-admirals, from ſitting in the houſe of commons.

Fourthly, his royal highneſs promiſes that he will, when in his power, grant inquiries into the great numbers of abuſes in offices, and does not doubt of the aſſiſtance of all honeſt men, to enable him to correct the ſame for the future.

crown ſhould devolve on any of her ſons, a minor, under eighteen years of age. The parliament alſo allowed

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Fifthly, his royal highneſs promiſes, and will openly declare, that he will make no agreement with, or join in the ſupport of any adminiſtration whatever, without previouſly obtaining the above-mentioned points in behalf of the people, and for the ſake of good government. Upon theſe conditions, and theſe conditions only, his royal highneſs thinks he has a right not to doubt of having a moſt cordial ſupport, from all thoſe good men, who mean their country and this conſtitution well, and that they will become his, and his family's friends, and unite with him to promote the good government of this country; and that they will follow him, upon theſe principles, both in court, and out of court; and if he ſhould live to form an adminiſtration, it ſhall be compoſed, without diſtinction, of men of dignity, knowledge, and probity. His royal highneſs farther promiſes, to accept of no more, if offered to him, than 800,000 l. for his civil liſt, by way of rent charge.

Anſwer to the propoſal.

The lords and gentlemen to whom a paper has been communicated, containing his royal highneſs the prince's gracious intentions, upon ſeveral weighty and important points, of the greateſt conſequence to the honour and intereſt of his majeſty's government, and abſolutely neceſſary for the reſtoring, and perpetuating the true uſe and deſign of parliament; the purity of our excellent conſtitution, and the happineſs and welfare of the whole nation, do, therein, with the greateſt ſatisfaction obſerve, and moſt gratefully acknowledge, the uprightneſs and generoſity of his royal highneſs's noble ſentiments and reſolutions. And therefore beg leave to return their moſt dutiful and humble thanks for the ſame, and to aſſure his royal highneſs that they would conſtantly and ſteadily uſe their utmoſt endeavours to ſupport thoſe his wiſe and ſalutary purpoſes, that the throne may be ſtrengthened, religion and morality encouraged, faction and corruption deſtroyed, the purity and eſſence of parliament reſtored, and the happineſs and welfare of our conſtitution preſerved.

When this anſwer was returned to the prince, there were preſent,

The duke of B.	Sir Wat. Wil. W.
The earl of L.	Sir John H. C.
The earl of T.	Sir Walter B.
The earl of W.	Sir Robert G.
The earl of S.	Mr. F.
Lord F.	Mr. P.
Lord W.	Mr. C.

allowed a council of regency, of which the duke of Cumberland was one, after a ſharp conteſt. The reader is to obſerve, that his royal highneſs was at this time extremely popular, and at the head of the army. In the courſe of the debate the hiſtory of England was ranſacked, to ſhew inſtances of royal uncles and regents having injured their ſovereigns, and diſtreſſed the government by their pride, cruelty, and ambition. The characters of John Lackland, and John of Ghent, Humphrey and Richard dukes of Glouceſter, were particularly pointed out with applications *. The earl of Macclesfield promoted, and at length effected a bill for the alteration of the ſtyle. On the 25th of June the ſeſſion was cloſed.

The deſign of electing the archduke Joſeph king of the Romans, was revived in Germany. The electors of Saxony and Palatine were procured to vote in his favour at a great expence, the principal part of which was paid by England, though, in reality, ſhe had no buſineſs with the affair; but the kings of Pruſſia and France oppoſed this meaſure; nay, the former openly declared ſhe was an officious cabal, and had no right to intermeddle with the affairs of Germany.

In order to decide the diſputed claims of the Engliſh and French to different parts of North America, commiſſaries met at Paris. The French by falſe maps, and other arts of deluſion, endeavoured to miſrepreſent the ſituation of the countries. They pro-

* A few months before the prince of Wales died, a printed paper appeared, intitled, "Conſtitutional queries, earneſtly recommended to the ſerious conſideration of every true Briton," inſinuating, that the power which a royal perſonage had in the army was incompatible with the ſafety of his elder brother, and his family. The houſe of commons deemed it a libel, and ordered it to be burned: in the month of January a reward was offered for diſcovering the author, but he was never poſitively known, though ſuppoſed to be a member of note.

duced ſpurious facts in ſupport of their claims, urged many artful objections to thoſe of the Engliſh, and in fine, ſpun out the conferences by cavilling and chicanery. They would have confined the limits of Acadia, or Nova Scotia, within the compaſs of a ſmall iſthmus, which in fact did not contain much more than half the lawful territory. They built forts on each ſide of the neck of the iſthmus, in order to prevent the Engliſh from extending their ſettlements, and ſome acts of hoſtility were committed by the French troops, and neutrals, who deſtroyed the little town of Dartmouth near Halifax; but they were at length driven out of that neighbourhood by major Lawrence. The court of Verſailles did not at this time think proper to countenance theſe open breaches of their public faith; and orders were ſent to deſiſt for the future; yet the Engliſh permitted them to keep poſſeſſion of their forts, though the building of them were flagrant acts of depredation.

About the middle of November the parliament met, and were pretty unanimous; the government purchaſed the charter of the African company, and that trade was appointed to be carried on by a committee of merchants of London, Briſtol, and Liverpool. The ſupplies did not reach four millions. The truſtees of Georgia finding themſelves unable to ſupport that colony, ſurrendered it to the king. The only debate was on a motion to addreſs the king, not to enter into any ſubſidary treaties with foreign princes, which are ſo burthenſom to this nation; it was defended and oppoſed by the beſt orators in both houſes, but at length was dropt without a diviſion. On the 26th of March the ſeſſion cloſed, and ſoon after the king ſet out for Hanover.

This year was diſtinguiſhed by the death of Henry St. John, lord viſcount Bolingbroke He was naturally inconſtant, and looſe in his principles, but had the moſt engaging manners. He was the beſt political

political writer that ever appeared in England; when he attacked Sir Robert Walpole, as he often did, he turned him into the ſtrongeſt ridicule, and expoſed, in the moſt glaring light, the deſpicable abilities of that miniſter's underſtrappers; his connections gave him the beſt intelligence of the tranſactions and intereſts of all the courts in Europe, and his very eminent abilities were extolled to the world by Mr. Pope, and other fine writers, who were conſidered to be at the head of polite literature. The ſpirit of the oppoſition was greatly damped by the death of the prince of Wales, and this nobleman. There now appeared among the great very few to cheriſh arts, learning or taſte, which had very few patrons from this time to the concluſion of the reign, except ſome of the remains of the prince's friends; for as to the m——, and the other engroſſers of the r—— favour, they were dead to every ſpark of that public ſpirit and virtue, which ſo greatly adorns a nation in the encouragement and protection of literature and ſcience.

A diſpute broke out between the electors of Hanover and Brandenburg, concerning the principality or Eaſt-Frieſland, to which both parties laid claim; but the elector of Brandenburgh being in poſſeſſion, refuſed to ſubmit the diſpute to any umpire. He, at this time, charged the Britiſh miniſtry with having ſeized ſeveral of his trading veſſels, and in return he ſtopped the payment of the Sileſian loan; but his objections on this point, were all refuted, and he thought proper to continue the payment of the loan. The election of a king of the Romans was ſtill a favourite object of his Britannic majeſty and the empreſs queen, but it met with a number of obſtacles: the king of Pruſſia was thought to aſpire at the imperial dignity himſelf, and the whole deſign proved abortive.

Some

Some murmurings alſo broke out in the princeſs dowager's court, particularly among thoſe to whom the education of the prince had been committed, and ſoon after the king's arrival from Hanover, which was on the 18th of November, the earl of Harcourt, who had been appointed governor to his royal highneſs, and the biſhop of Norwich, who was his preceptor, both reſigned their places, upon which the former vacancy was ſupplied by the earl of Waldgrave, and the latter by the biſhop of Lincoln.

The parliament met on the 11th of January, 1753, when the earl of E——, and other ſenſible members, made great objection to thoſe words in the addreſs, which complimented his majeſty on his wiſdom in conducting foreign affairs: they ſpoke with great vivacity againſt continental connections, and endeavoured to expoſe the weakneſs and folly of the whole ſyſtem of foreign meaſures; but the addreſs was carried without ſuch amendment. After that, a much ſharper and more diſtinguiſhed conteſt happened on a bill which was ſupported and paſſed by the courtiers, for naturalizing the Jews, though the city of London petitioned againſt it, and there was the greateſt probability, that under this indulgence, the kingdom would be deluged with brokers and uſurers, who might purchaſe lands, and acquire an intereſt in the legiſlature, to the endangering the conſtitution and the church. The next ſubject of debate was an act, which alſo paſſed into a law, to prevent clandeſtine marriages; the contents of which are well known, and univerſally allowed to be worthy of its framers. The miniſter ſtrongly promoted the bill, but the members were in general divided, according to their real ſentiments, and not as uſual by a political diſtinction. The objections were, that it would damp the ſpirit of love and propagation; prejudice poſterity and population, by promoting mercenary matches, which would ruin domeſtic happineſs,

pineſs, and alſo be the means of engroſſing the property of the kingdom among the rich and great; that it would encourage a lawleſs commerce between the ſexes, and greatly leſſen the number of marriages, and finally ſubject the poor to many inconveniences and extraordinary expence, beſides throwing an additional power into the hands of the chancellor. Certain it is a great number of clandeſtine matches had been made in the fleet, and other places, to the ſcandal of the nation and ſociety: but after all, this act may be eluded by a trip to Scotland, which has often been done ſince it paſſed. A Bill paſſed for purchaſing by lottery the muſæum of Sir Hans Sloane, with the Harleian collection, and Cottonian library, which were all depoſited in Montague-Houſe, and are ſubjected to view, under certain reſtrictions, and exhibit the moſt illuſtrious monument of national taſte and liberality. The public debt at this time amounted to 74,368,451 l. and the ſupplies to 2,132,707 l. The ſeſſion cloſed on the 7th of June.

On the continent the affairs of Eaſt-Frieſland continued ſtill to be a matter of diſpute. With regard to the Britiſh affairs we muſt obſerve, that the conferences, which had ſome time ſince been opened at Paris, concerning the limits of Nova Scotia, now broke up. The French commiſſaries did nothing but cavil, and endeavour to elude our pretenſions by other arts of procraſtination, till they had gained time to prepare, and commence open hoſtilities with a proſpect of ſucceſs.

In the mean time ſome wandering dealers, belonging to the Britiſh colonies in North America, who had travelled over the Allegeney mountains, diſcovered a fine, healthy, and fruitful country, with many navigable rivers, the principal of which was called the Ohio. It was judged, as we were the firſt ſettlers on this coaſt, that we had a right to the inland country, and in this opinion,

on, a company of traders obtained a charter for a large tract of this land, encouraged by the advantages ariſing from an Indian trade. Now began to ſhoot forth the ſeeds of another diſpute, which had hitherto lain unobſerved: this was concerning the right to the river Ohio. The French pretended to have been the firſt diſcoverers of the Miſſiſippi, and therefore claimed the whole adjacent country, eaſt and weſt: thus the right of the Indians, who were the lawful inheritors, was conſidered as nothing. But to underſtand the nature of this difference, we are to obſerve, that the French had no communication with Canada, but by a long and dangerous paſſage up the river St Lawrence, which is open but half the year; and Canada extending a great way into the continent, becomes contiguous to ſeveral fine lakes, which border on the back of the Britiſh ſettlements, by which we traded with the Indians; therefore they conceived an opinion, that if they could unite Canada with Louiſiana, another colony which borders on the Miſſiſippi, and open a free communication between them, by means of the lakes and rivers, which are conveniently ſituated for that purpoſe; they ſhould have, from the mouths of the Miſſiſippi, as eaſy and direct an intercourſe with Europe, as the Engliſh. To execute this deſign, they ſeized on the whole territory which lies between theſe two colonies, and began to erect forts, in order to ſecure this illegal capture. Theſe forts were ſo ſituated, as to form a curve line, and hem in all the Britiſh ſettlements, by being on their backs, ſerving at the ſame time to exclude them from all communication with the Indians; and this ſcheme was further improved, by a project to invade different parts of the Britiſh colonies, which was actually put in execution; and by continuing to increaſe their power till they were formidable enough, there is no doubt but they intended to extirpate the Engliſh from the whole coaſt. This

deſign

deſign which had been at leaſt half a century in agitation, was not diſcovered by the Engliſh till this time, when the enemy drove off the new ſettlers, and commenced hoſtilities againſt the province of Virginia.

On the 15th of November, the parliament met; when after providing for the exigencies of the ſtate, which exceeded 2,797,916l. A motion was made in both houſes for repealing the Jew bill; which was complied with, and the whole act of naturalization was repealed. Every corner of the kingdom had reſounded with reproach againſt the miniſtry for enforcing this act; and it was ſhrewdly ſuſpected that the two brothers in the adminiſtration, trembled at the proſpect of thoſe conſequences, which this clamour might occaſion at the general election, as this was the laſt ſeſſion of the preſent parliament. So eager were the miniſters to repeal this unpopular act, that it was little leſs than diverting, to obſerve the hurry and precipitation with which they went about it. Nothing elſe material was done, and the parliament was diſſolved at the beginning of April 1754.

In the beginning of March 1754, died Mr. Pelham, the miniſter: however, before his death, he had laid down the meaſures for ſecuring a majority at the enſuing election of a new parliament, and his plan was faithfully followed by his friends and adherents, who ſtill engroſſed great part of the adminiſtration: notwithſtanding it was reſolved to keep matters in the ſame channel as Mr. Pelham intended them, yet ſome how a few perſons were taken into the adminiſtration, who belonged to a party which was far from being agreeable to the remains of the old m——ry; and here lay the foundation for all that clamour and diſpute which broke out two years after. It was generally thought that the leading man of this party, intended to work out the old ſervants of the crown, in order to make way for a more uniform ſyſtem; but

the reader will be enabled to judge more clearly by perusing the domestic disputes of the three following years. The changes were, the duke of Newcastle first lord of the treasury, Sir Thomas Robinson secretary of state, Mr. Legge chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. George Grenville treasurer of the navy, and Mr. Charles Townshend a commissioner of the board of admiralty.

A warm dispute on the almost forgotten subjects of privelege and prerogative broke out at the beginning of the year, between the government and the Irish house of commons, whether the latter had a right to apply the surplus of their revenue towards national purposes, without acknowledging the consent of their sovereign. They had in the year 1749, a balance in their hands of 205,000l. which had been saved in their treasury, part of which the attorney-general, who acts as chancellor of the exchequer, moved should be applied towards the discharge of the national debt: accordingly a bill was brought in, but in the preamble * there was no mention made of "his majesty's previous consent," which it had been customary to do in passing the Irish money bills. The friends of the prerogative in England, took great offence at this method of appropriating the money; they affirmed that the Irish house of commons had no right to apply any part of the unappropriated revenue, without gaining and acknowledging the previous consent of the crown, in the most explicit terms. In the session of parliament held in the year 1751, the

* The preamble ran in these words, "Whereas on the 25th of March last, a considerable balance remained in the hands of the vice-treasurer, or receiver-general, of the kingdom, or their deputy or deputies, unapplied; and it will be for your majesty's service, and for the ease of your faithful subjects in this kingdom, that so much thereof as can be conveniently spared, should be paid agreeable to your majesty's most gracious intentions, in discharge of part of the national debt."

the duke of Dorſet, who was lord lieutenant, told the houſe, that his majeſty had graciouſly conſented and recommended it to them, that ſuch part of the money then remaining in his treaſury, as ſhould be thought conſiſtent with the public ſervice, be applied towards the further reduction of the national debt. The commons, who were zealous for the preſervation of their privileges, were greatly alarmed at this declaration; and in their addreſs of thanks, which, like the Britiſh parliament, is generally the echo of the ſpeech, made no mention of his majeſty's conſent. They propoſed a bill for applying 120,000l. of the ſurplus towards diſcharging the national debt; but in the preamble made no mention of his majeſty's conſent. As the Iriſh acts are reviſed by the Engliſh government, before they paſs into law, the words, "by his majeſty's previous conſent," were added at the council board in London, where this purpoſed omiſſion gave great offence, and where it was conſtrued into a wilful encroachment on the prerogative: with this amendment the bill was ſent back to Ireland, and the houſe of commons being at this time deeply engaged in an enquiry into the conduct of a ſervant of the crown and member of their houſe, they allowed the bill to paſs with the alteration, that they might not be interrupted *. In 1754, the duke of Dorſet, when he opened the ſeſſion, repeated the expreſſion of his majeſty's gracious conſent, in mentioning the ſurplus of the public money; but the commons in their addreſs omitted that word; and ſeemed reſolved to ſink it as odious; for in their bill of application they omitted the expreſſion of grate-

* This gentleman was accuſed of having miſapplied a large ſum of the public money, which he had been entruſted with, for rebuilding or repairing the barracks; and being at length convicted of this fact, he was ordered to make the barracks fit for the reception of the troops at his own expence.

ful acknowledgement, which was abating in their compliance, in return for the cold reception they had met with. The conteſt had by this time kindled up two violent factions, and a ſpirit of reſentment ſeemed to have diffuſed itſelf throughout the whole Iriſh nation. The committee who prepared this laſt bill, avoided the uſual compliments in the preamble, and only inſerted a plain recital of facts, in which naked manner they ſent it over to England. But the miniſtry, who were determined to vindicate the prerogative, filled up the omiſſions of the committee, and decorated it out in this manner; "And your majeſty, ever attentive to the eaſe and happineſs of your faithful ſubjects, has been graciouſly pleaſed to ſignify, that you would conſent and recommend it to us, that ſo much of the money remaining in your majeſty's treaſury as ſhould be neceſſary, be applied to the diſcharge of the national debt, or ſuch part thereof as ſhall be thought expedient by parliament." When the bill was returned to Ireland, with this alteration, a letter was written to the lord lieutenant, and ſigned by eighteen Britiſh counſellors, intimating that the king could not diſpenſe without ſuch alteration. The criſis was now come for determining this important conſtitutional point, "Whether the people in parliament aſſembled have a right to deliberate upon, and vote the application of any part of the unappropriated revenue without the previous conſent of the crown?" All who were zealouſly attached to the liberties of their country, exerted themſelves ſtrenuouſly in oppoſing the bill with its alterations, and even the ſervants of the crown, who were natives of the Iriſh nation, joined in the oppoſition, and at length the bill was rejected by a majority of 122, againſt 117. This ſucceſs was celebrated with the moſt extravagant public rejoicings, and conſidered as a triumph of patriotiſm over the arts of m——— corruption: Mr. Boyle, the ſpeaker, was little leſs than

than deified for his oppoſition to the lord-lieutenant; whilſt the ſervants of the crown, who had voted againſt the bill, were diſmiſſed from their employments; the public creditors were greatly diſappointed, as the bill for paying them was rejected; the circulation of caſh was almoſt ſtagnated; both theſe calamities were imputed to the arbitrary deſigns of the government. The people were inflamed with the moſt enthuſiaſtic ſpirit of independency; and now the moſt miſchievous effects were dreaded, had not means been found to divert the ſtorm of popular clamour, from the government to ſome of thoſe perſons who were idols of public veneration; the ſpeaker was created an earl, and many other patriots were gratified with lucrative employments; and the whole ſeemed to reſemble the famous ſcene, which was acted in England, at the beginning of the year 1742. At this time the king's letter arrived, for paying off 75,500l. of the national debt; which circulated caſh, and retrieved the affairs of Ireland to their former tranquility.

With regard to the affairs of America, nothing but an open rupture was expected from them. The Britiſh ambaſſador at Paris continued to make complaints againſt the French encroachments; but he only obtained evaſive anſwers. The Britiſh government, who were at this time averſe to a war, ſaw it was next to unavoidable, and, in this embarraſſment, they ſeemed to be following the dictates of an unſteady and confuſed underſtanding. The general voice of the people was for war; the beginning of which is always extremely critical to a Britiſh miniſtry. Complaints were every month brought from America, which were no doubt ſwelled by ſome individuals with exaggegerated accounts of the French deſigns. The province of Virginia was indeed alarmed, and its governor, Mr. Dinwiddie, applied for aſſiſtance to the provinces of Penſylvania and New York, but they contemned the power of Canada, and made trifling excuſes.

cuſes. At length orders were diſpatched from Great Britain, directing the governors of all the provinces to repel force by force: but it has been aſſerted, that they were clogged with this remarkable reſtriction, *be ſure you do it on the undoubted territories belonging to the Britiſh crown.* Now the ſcene of action was in the territories diſputed; thus the ſame letter gave, and took away from them, the power of defending themſelves. The coloniſts however judged (though perhaps at the hazard of diſobliging their ſuperiors) that the territories diſputed belonged to the Britiſh crown, by virvirtue of a prior diſcovery, and therefore made requiſition; that the French troops ſhould retire from the ſtation they had choſen near the Ohio; but major Waſhington, who was deputed on this errand, received for anſwer, that thoſe troops were placed there by the governor of Canada's orders, and without which they would not retire. The Virginians now began to arm, and march a body of troops towards the Ohio, under the command of major Waſhington, and to erect a fort on that river, in order to repel any intended irruption of the enemy. This meaſure, though a neceſſary one, was taken ſo late, that the French had the ſtart of them: they ſurprized a place called Logg's town, made themſelves maſters of the block and truck-houſes, and ſkins, and other commodities, to the value of 20,000l. This detachment of the enemy, which conſiſted of 1000 men, was commanded by M. Contrecœur, who penetrated as far as the river Monongahella, on the forks of which he diſlodged captain Trent, and found the traces and conſtruction of a fort. Here he encamped and finiſhed the fort to which he gave the name of Du Queſne, who was governor of Canada. This was deemed a valuable acquiſition, as it commanded, by its excellent ſituation, the entrance into all the country on the Ohio and the Miſſiſippi; therefore it was ſoon after made very ſtrong. The French pre-

pretended this fort was built on their own territories, and declaimed againſt an encroachment of the Engliſh; who, on the contrary hand affirmed, that the proceedings of Contrecœur were illegal, and inſiſted that the fort was on the Britiſh dominions. It is to the contention for this fort, that we muſt attribute the kindling up the flames of ſo general and deſtructive a war. On the firſt of May major Waſhington had a ſkirmiſh with a detachment of the enemy, which he defeated and made priſoners; but immediately after a numerous body, under the command of M. de Villiers, advanced to take revenge for this miſcarriage. Waſhington knew nothing of the motions of the enemy till they were within two hours of the fort he had begun to erect: he reſolved to defend the place, and accordingly took every precaution which his prudence could ſuggeſt; but the enemy attacking him with a vaſt ſuperiority, compelled him to ſurrender the fort on the third of July. Had Waſhington been reinforced with the other colony troops in due time, he had not thus been obliged to ſurrender the fort. It was a misfortune to the cauſe, that the coloniſts were at this time diſtracted and divided among themſelves by heats, jealouſies and animoſities *. It was obſerved, that among this body of the enemy there was a conſiderable number of the Indians known to have been long in the Engliſh alliance. A little while after, in conſequence of the king's orders, a conference

* It may not be improper to remark, that theſe diviſions were conſiderably augmented, and the minds of the provincials greatly inflamed, by the miniſtry in England being determined to ſupport the prerogative in that country with a high hand. New York was filled with diſcontent, on account of ſome inſtructions ſent to the governor inveighing againſt their loyalty, duty, &c. and violating the royal commiſſion, in aſſuming to themſelves the power of diſpoſing of the public money. Theſe inſtructions teemed with a multitude of peremptory injunctions not at all agreeable to the coloniſts.

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was held with the chiefs of the Iroquois Indians at Albany, when it was found that they were wavering in their reſolutions, had but little friendſhip for the Engliſh, and had been artfully corrupted by the French. The remainder of the year was ſpent in making repeated repreſentations to the Britiſh miniſtry, on the dangerous ſituation of the colonies, and the abſolute neceſſity of a powerful aſſiſtance from Great Britain.

No tranſaction marked the events of the continent, touching the intereſt of Great Britain. The hereditary prince of Heſſe Caſſel, who eſpouſed the princeſs Mary of England, declared himſelf a Roman catholic, at the inſtigation of ſome powers, who flattered his ambition. The French attempted to inveigle Spain into a rupture with England, but all their machinations were fruſtrated by Mr. Wall, the Spaniſh miniſter, who was ſincerely diſpoſed to promote the Engliſh intereſt at Madrid.

On the 14th of November the ſeſſion of parliament was opened. The ſupplies exceeded four millions. The only ſubject of debate was on the Oxfordſhire election, from which four candidates had been returned: after a long diſpute it was determined in favour of the court intereſt, which at this time predominated in parliament. Application was made to the houſe for a million of money to augment the land and ſea forces, which was granted; and in April 1755, the ſeſſion cloſed, when the king declared his intention to viſit his German dominions.

The miniſtry, in conſequence of the many ſolicitations from America, reſolved to ſend thither fifteen hundred men, under the command of general Braddock. The French were at this time making great preparations for ſending a fleet, and a large body of troops, to America; and the marquis de Mirepoix, the French miniſter at London, was ordered to amuſe the Britiſh miniſtry with aſ-

ſurances,

ſurances, that no hoſtility was intended, and he was ſo far impoſed upon as to believe the profeſſions of his court were ſincere, till at length proof was given him to the contrary, with which he appeared aſtoniſhed, and immediately repaired to Paris, where it is certain he upbraided the French miniſters, for having made him the tool of their diſſimulation; but they referred him to the king, who ſent him back to London, with freſh aſſurances of his pacific intentions. The French fleet however ſet ſail, and it was ſoon followed by a Britiſh ſquadron, both deſtined to America. Mirepoix at this time declared, that the firſt gun which ſhould be fired in hoſtility, would kindle up a war through all Europe.

The meaſures taken were a proof of the wiſdom of the adminiſtration. Braddock was perhaps the moſt unfit man in the kingdom to be ſent to America; he was haughty, proud, poſitive, vain, and inacceſſible. He knew how to review a battalion of guards in Hyde Park, and that was the extent of his diſcipline. As ſoon as he ſet foot in America he was deſpiſed, and the provincials, by a body of whom he was joined, were terrified at his ſeverities in diſcipline. Three operations were at this time undertaken. Braddock was ordered to retake Fort du Queſne, and reſtore peace to the lands on the Ohio. General Shirley, the governor of New England, to proceed to the lakes Erie and Ontario, and colonel Monckton to reduce the French forts at the iſthmus of Nova Scotia. When Braddock began his march, he had the general abhorrence of every one about him: ſome few, out of zeal for the cauſe, cautioned him againſt ambuſcades and ſurprize; but he neglected their advice; diſdained the irregulars, and Indians, who forſook him, and contemning all opinions but his own, fruſtrated the deſign of the expedition by his obſtinacy and conceit. He advanced with 2200 men to where major Waſhington had been

defeated the year before, and coming within ten miles of Fort du Queſne, he was ſurprized by an ambuſcade of Indians, who made great havock among his troops without his being able to return the fire at any enemy he could ſee; the ſavages raiſing their diſmal yells, ſtruck the regulars with ſuch a panic, that they fled off the field, but the officers ſtayed, and were ſlaughtered, and even Braddock loſt his life. About half of the army reached Virginia, where their defeat ſtruck a general conſternation. A plan was formed for general Johnſon to attack Crown Point, and in obedience to his inſtructions he advanced as far as lake George, where the French general, baron Dieſkau, attempted to ſurprize his camp; but having no cannon, he was totally defeated, and himſelf made priſoner. As this victory did not happen till the month of September, it was thought the ſeaſon was too far advanced to lay ſiege to Crown Point; therefore it was productive of no other advantage, than raiſing the ſpirits of the people, which had been depreſſed by the news of Braddock's miſcarriage. As to general Shirley's expedition to the lakes, it was conducted in ſo dilatory a manner, that it did not reach the fort of Oſwego till very late in the ſeaſon; and then, after leaving 700 men in that place, it returned back again, without having even attempted any thing. The expedition under colonel Monckton, againſt the French forts in Nova Scotia, was the only ſucceſsful one; he, with a few New Englanders, made himſelf maſter of all thoſe forts in a very ſhort time, and with very little loſs. It was oppoſite to this country that hoſtilities were firſt committed on the ocean. We have already taken notice, that the French and Britiſh fleets directed their courſe to America; and were both very near the mouth of the river St. Lawrence at the ſame time, but were prevented ſeeing each other by the thick fogs: however, two French men of war, viz. the Alcide and the Lys,

Lys, fell in with part of the Britiſh ſquadron, and were taken by the captains Howe and Andrews. This action gave great ſpirits to the people at home, where the beſt advantage was made of it for the ſervice of the miniſtry. It muſt be owned, that public ſpirit, which had flagged, was raiſed by this incident; but it was far from anſwering the expence of the expedition. When the news of this tranſaction reached Paris, M. de Mirepoix was recalled from the court of London, and M. de Buſſy from that at Hanover, where the king reſided. The French court loudly complained againſt the taking theſe two men of war; but they were anſwered, that it was only by way of retaliation for their encroachments. At this time orders were iſſued for annoying the French trade; and before the end of the year, 300 of their merchant ſhips, many of them from St. Domingo and Martinico, with near 8000 of their ſailors, were brought into the Britiſh ports. They made all Europe reſound with complaints againſt this proceeding, which they called a violation of the law of nations, and therefore forbore to make any ſort of repriſals for ſeveral months after. This clamour and extraordinary ſhew of affected moderation was intended to influence the other courts in their behalf, till they were ready to act in Europe; they took the Blandford man of war, but from theſe motives releaſed her.

Whatever may be thought of the abilities of king George, the public events of whoſe reign we are only attempting to recapitulate, it is certain he was perfectly ſkilled in all the receſſes of that political labyrinth, which forms the ſyſtem of Germany; he had been brought up to it his whole life, and was naturally a zealous aſſertor of its liberties; and this we ſhall undertake to prove ſo far as it comes within the ſphere of our work. He had always a warm affection for his Hanoverian ſubjects, and it was his

love for them that drew him this year to the continent. The French had tampered with the court of Spain, but finding they could not gain their point there; they had recourſe to the princes of Germany, and ſoon brought over the elector of Cologn to their intereſt: he alſo conſented to their erecting magazines in his country, a ſtep from which the Britiſh monarch immediately ſaw they deſigned to attack Hanover; but then it ſhould be obſerved, that this attack was only founded on a ſtrong ſuppoſition that England would defend it. King George loſt not a moment's time, in providing for the ſecurity of his electoral dominions. In June he entered into a ſubſidary treaty with the landgrave of Heſſe-Caſſel, whereby that prince engaged to furniſh 12000 men for four years, which were to be employed in caſe either Hanover or England ſhould be attacked; but the defence of the former was more immediately its object. He alſo required, from the court of Vienna, the auxiliaries ſtipulated to him by treaty; but they were refuſed, upon pretence that the diſpute between England and France concerned America only, and therefore it was not a caſe of the alliance.

It has been ſhrewdly ſuſpected that this refuſal was the vent of a woman's malice. The wound which the empreſs queen ſuffered laſt war by the loſs of Sileſia, had never been healed, and though this duchy was ſolemnly confirmed to the king of Pruſſia by two treaties, one made at Breſlau, and the other at Dreſden, yet they were compulſive; and that at Dreſden was hardly concluded before ſhe ſat practices on foot for recovering this valuable territory: ſhe entered into a treaty with the court of Peterſburgh in 1746, which as far as it appeared to the public, was of an innocent and defenſive nature; but in one of the ſecret articles, it was provided, that in caſe the king of Pruſſia ſhould attack either powers, they ſhould conſider it as a breach of the treaty of Dreſden, and

and the empreſs queen's right to Sileſia ſhould revive *. The king of Poland was invited to accede to this treaty, but he refuſed. The king of Great-Britain was often importuned to agree to this ſtipulation, but he always objected, and in return for this refuſal, the empreſs queen denied him thoſe auxiliaries which by treaty he had a right to demand. The French court perceiving this difference, immediately cajolled with the Auſtrian miniſters, and promiſed the empreſs queen ſhe might command all his power againſt the king of Pruſſia. The empreſs of Ruſſia, to whom this propoſal was made known by the court of Vienna, was no way averſe to it. She ardently wiſhed to ſee the power of Pruſſia humbled, in return for his fruſtrating a favourite meaſure of hers a few years ago. The whole of this negociation was carried on as ſecretly as poſſible, and very few of its particulars have tranſpired; and therefore from a judgment which may be put on the circumſtances of affairs, we may ſafely venture to aſſert, that no formal advances were at this time made by any of the powers on the heads of a tripple alliance.

The Britiſh monarch before he left Germany, laid the foundation for a ſubſidary treaty with Ruſſia, but

* The empreſs queen conſidered the ceſſion of Sileſia, during the late war, as a circumſtance altogether compulſive, and therefore not binding according to the laws of equity; ſhe knew the Pruſſian power was entirely military, and the diſpoſition of the monarch dangerous; and theſe induced her to enter into a negociation with Ruſſia in 1745, which in the year following produced a defenſive treaty, made only againſt the king of Pruſſia, on a ſuppoſition that he was the aggreſſor, ſtipulating that they ſhould ſhare whatever countries they took from him, in repulſing this aggreſſion. Though the king of Poland did not formally accede to this treaty, there is no doubt but he ſecretly connived at the means which obtained it, from a hope or a promiſe that ſome conſideration would fall to his ſhare, to indemnify him for the damages committed by the king of Pruſſia, during his late irruption into Saxony, and the great ſums which he paid at the following peace.

but it was not ſigned till the laſt day of September, at Kenſington. The Ruſſian princeſs agreed to furniſh 55,000 men, and forty or fifty gallies, in caſe, as the fifth article ſaid, his Britannic majeſty's dominions in Germany, ſhould be attacked on account of the diſputes concerning his kingdoms, in conſideration of his paying her 500,000l. per annum for four years. The ſeventh article contained theſe remarkable words, which were directly levelled as a menance againſt the king of Pruſſia, and added a conſiderable quantity of fuel to the flame already begun to be kindled up in the empire; "Conſidering the *proximity* of the countries, wherein the diverſion in queſtion will probably be made, and the facility her troops will probably have of ſubſiſting *immediately* in an enemy's country. She takes upon herſelf alone, during ſuch a diverſion, the ſubſiſtance and treatment of the ſaid troops by ſea and land." And by the eleventh article it was ſtipulated, the Ruſſian troops ſhould have all the plunder they took from the enemy. The king of Pruſſia, by ſome means, in a ſhort time procured a copy of this treaty, and in a moment gueſſing at the motives which ſet it on foot, he ſolemnly and boldly declared, he would oppoſe with his utmoſt force the march of all foreign troops into the empire *. France who was at this time

* The whole treaty was ſo manifeſt an attack on the king of Pruſſia, that he muſt have been blind not to have perceived it. Great Britain could not bring the Ruſſian army into the field to attack the French. The Ruſſian gallies could not be brought into the ocean to oppoſe the naval power of France. Then was not the whole proviſion intended againſt Pruſſia? Is it not evident king George was more afraid of the Pruſſians entering Hanover than the French?

Will poſterity believe that we armed the nations of the north, that we bargained for troops in the polar circle, and that we were for bringing them down to the defence of a few dominions which our king had in Germany; dominions, which the natives of this iſland

time preparing to invade the electorate of Hanover, heard this declaration with aſtoniſhment. She ſent to Berlin the duke de Nivernois, to perſuade the king of Pruſſia to retract from his declaration: the manner in which this ambaſſador was received at Berlin, ſeemed to denote an intention in the king to agree to his propoſals; no body knew whether the French and Pruſſians were not forming a deſign to enter Hanover together; but England was reſolved to defend it, let who would attack it; though every body knew the French would never go thither, if they were not ſure of meeting with the Engliſh. She was rouſed with jealouſy at the king of Pruſſia's conduct; eſpecially as at this time ſhe did not ſtand on very good terms with him; ſhe was now convinced that the Ruſſians, who were to march through Poland, and make a diverſion in order to find employment for the king of Pruſſia at home, would be ineffectual; for the French and Pruſſian armies, both of which were ready, might over-run the electorate before the Ruſſians could come to its relief. Thus the only reſource which Great-Britain had to defend Hanover, failed, and confirmed all Europe in opinion that England is not able to defend that diſtant country.

She

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iſland ſcarcely knew, till they called the preſent family to the throne, and even at this period knew little more than that the king went thither from time to time; that we paid vaſt ſubſidies to theſe troops, ſent the riches of our nation into diſtant countries, and the ſtrength, which ſhould have been employed in our own quarrel, conſequently impaired for the ſake of dominions, the intereſt of which has no connexion with ours, and which by the act of ſettlement, we took care to ſeparate from the Britiſh kingdoms? Will they not ſay to what end was this ſtrength procured, which could not be exerted? Or could the empreſs of Ruſſia by any of her aſſiſtance, repay us the ſums we ſtipulated to pay for her coſtly friendſhip? The event proved ſhe could not; and ſhe afterwards joined the enemies of our allies. This policy will aſtoniſh after ages, if they know nothing of the ſecret hiſtory of theſe times.

She had now nothing to do but give up her old allies, renounce her treaty with Ruſſia, and buy off an evil which ſhe could not repel. This produced the treaty with Pruſſia.

King George again required of the court of Vienna the number of troops ſtipulated to him by treaty; but they were ſtill refuſed on the former pretence. The king of Great Britain then required that ſhe would defend her own poſſeſſions, the barrier in the Netherlands, with the number of men ſpecified by treaty, which countries had been acquired by the blood and treaſure of the Engliſh nation, and given to her on that expreſs condition; this ſhe alſo refuſed to do, alledging that ſhe could not ſpare troops on account of her dangerous enemy the king of Pruſſia; who as he kept a ſtanding army, and being an ambitious, as well as an enterprizing monarch, muſt be ſtrictly obſerved *.

When

* The affairs of Ireland went on this year extremely regular. lord Hartington was choſen lord lieutenant, and deemed the moſt fit perſon that could have been fixed upon: his judgment was ſtrong and ſound. his behaviour and addreſs ſo engaging, that he managed parties with eaſe, without being warped to any; he had a becoming dignity, which added luſtre to his exalted ſtation, and the humanity, diſintereſtedneſs, and candour of an honeſt man: with ſuch abilities we may readily ſuppoſe that he was the moſt proper perſon to allay the heats of a divided people, and he did it ſo effectually among all ranks, by the wiſe meaſures and excellent public laws, which he encouraged and paſſed, that in a little time they were in much better temper, than even before the late differences broke out. The houſe of commons granted 10,000l. for making the river Nore, navigable from Kilkenny to Inneſtalge; 20,000l. towards carrying on an inland navigation from Dublin to the river Shannon; 4000l. for making the river Newry navigable; 2000l. for the encouragement of Engliſh proteſtant ſchools; ſeveral ſums to be diſtributed in premiums for the encouragement of the cambrick, hempen, and flaxen manufactures; and 300,000l. to the king, towards ſupporting the ſeveral branches of the eſtabliſhment, and for defraying the expences of the government for two years.

When the treaties which had been concluded with Ruſſia and Heſſe-Caſſel, were made public in England, they were received in a very diſagreeable manner, they were conſidered as acts of the moſt contemptible folly and flagrant c———, as violations of the great truſt of g——, whereby the wealth of Great-Britain, was to be ſacrificed to private views, and to a particular province; in a word, this new continental ſyſtem was inveighed againſt by the people, and ſtrong oppoſition was preparing to be made to it in parliament; even ſome of the miniſtry who were at the head of the finances, refuſed to anſwer the firſt draught for money, which came over from Ruſſia, till the treaty had been approved by parliament, becauſe it could not be called value received, the Ruſſian troops having not yet done any ſort of ſervice, neither did they apprehend it was conſiſtent with the act of ſettlement.

The ſeſſion was opened in November, when it appeared that there were a ſtrange jumble of parties in both houſes, as well as in the miniſtry. The king ordered the two late treaties to be laid before them; Mr. Pitt, and his adherents, declared againſt this new continental ſyſtem; Mr. Legge, chancellor of the Exchequer, and lord of the treaſury, declared upon the ſame cauſe, and was therefore ſucceeded in his employments by Sir George Littleton. The honourable Charles Townſhend, one of the lords of the Admiralty, and many others of ſuperior rank appeared on the ſame ſide of the queſtion, in juſtice to their country. Sir Thomas Robinſon, who had been ſecretary of ſtate ſome time, a well meaning man, but without abilities, and a particular favourite with the king, was oppoſed by the whole weight and intereſt of Mr. Pitt, paymaſter-general, and Mr. Fox, ſecretary at war. It was generally believed that the publick buſineſs could not go on, if another ſecretary was not appointed; becauſe Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox,

though they agreed in nothing elſe, they united in oppoſing his meaſures; their abilities, though of oppoſite kinds, were univerſally acknowledged to be great, and by their ſuperior influence in the houſe of commons, they had ſeveral times oppoſed Sir Thomas with ſucceſs. It is a thing extremely uncommon in England, eſpecially in theſe modern days, to ſee two gentlemen, who hold conſiderable places under the government, oppoſing upon every occaſion, a ſecretary of ſtate, who was ſuppoſed to know and to ſpeak the ſentiments of his maſter. Sir Thomas, being ſenſible of their ſuperior intereſt in parliament, prudently reſigned on the 10th of November, and the king afterwards gave the ſeals of his office to Mr. Fox, and lord Barrington ſucceeded Mr. Fox as ſecretary at war. The popular party, which we may call the oppoſition, being thus excluded, it laid the foundation for that enmity which marked the following year. Though theſe alterations were made, yet the treaties were very far from meeting with the unanimous approbation of both houſes, ſome members were for referring them to a committee, but this was over-ruled: great debates aroſe, but they were at length approved by the majority. The houſe next provided for the ſervice of the enſuing year; they voted 100,000l. as a ſubſidy to the empreſs of Ruſſia; 54,140l. to the landgrave of Heſſe; and 100,00l. to the elector of Bavaria, after ſeveral ſharp debates. As the miniſtry were afraid of a viſit from the French, the army was augmented with ten new regiments of foot, and eleven troops of light dragoons; 50,000 ſeamen, including 9000 marines, were voted, beſides above 34,000 ſoldiers, which, with other expences and deficiencies in the laſt year, ſwelled the ſupplies to the ſum of 7,229,1171 *. On the 23d of December,

* Of this vaſt ſum 5000l. was given to Sir William Johnſon, as a reward for his beating the baron Dieſkau in America, though his

December, the houſe adjourned to the 13th of January 1756.

The firſt tranſaction which preſents itſelf in the new-year, is the remarkable convention of neutrality concluded between the kings of England and Pruſſia, on the 16th of January importing, " That being apprehenſive the differences lately broke out in America, may extend to Europe, they for the de-

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his victory was actually productive of no ſolid advantage; and 100,000l. was given to the king of Portugal, to relieve his ſubjects in their diſtreſſes, occaſioned by a dreadful earthquake, which had ruined the city of Liſbon. This earthquake ſeems to have begun in Greenland, and paſſing under the northern ocean, the iſlands of Trinity, Ferro, ſome of the weſtern iſles of Scotland, under Ireland, the Iriſh ſea, the ſouth-weſt part of England, it continued its progreſs under the ocean, the Engliſh channel, to the bay of Biſcay, and ſhook all Portugal, and great part of Spain; whence it paſſed under the ſea to the continent of Africa, where, with incredible violence, it paſſed on in the ſame direction through the kingdoms of Fez, Morocco, &c. till probably it vented itſelf in the ſouthern ocean. On the firſt of November, about nine o'clock in the morning, the ſhock was felt at Liſbon, the city then contained about 3 000 houſes, extending near ſix miles in length, in the form of a creſcent, on the aſcent of a hill; the commotion was ſo violent that great part of the magnificent churches, monaſtries, and public buildings, were thrown down, and upwards of 10,000 perſons were buried in the ruins. In about fifteen minutes, this ſhock was followed by another, no leſs violent, during which the earth opened in ſeveral places, and having ſwallowed whole ſtreets, threw up dreadful quantities of fire, water, and ſmoke. At the ſame time the water in the river Tagus, roſe perpendicularly above twenty feet, ſo that thoſe who eſcaped the general deſtruction, were alarmed with a cry that the ſea was coming in. Several veſſels were ſunk in the river, either by the agitation of the water, or by the fall of the royal palace and other buildings ſituated on its banks. About noon two terrible fires broke out in different parts of the city, which almoſt compleated its diſſolution; the wind being high, the great flakes of fire were communicated to all parts of the town, and raged with great violence for eight days. This conflagration was no doubt at firſt partly fortuitous or natural, but its long continuance was chiefly occaſioned by a gang of impious villains, who unawed by the tremendous ſcene before them,

fence of their common country, Germany, and in order to preſerve its peace and tranquility, have concluded this convention of neutrality, whereby they reciprocally bind themſelves not to ſuffer any foreign troops to enter the empire, during the troubles already mentioned, but to oppoſe with their utmoſt force, the march of all ſuch troops, that Germany may not feel the calamities of war, nor its fundamental laws become injured." And it likewiſe ſtipulated

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ſet fire to many parts of the town, to increaſe the general confuſion, that they might have the better opportunity to plunder and rob and ſtrip the deſolated citizens. The king, queen, and all the royal family, eſcaped from the palace, juſt before it fell to the ground. The Spaniſh ambaſſador, and nine of his domeſticks, periſhed under the ruins of his houſe. A remarkable act of providence ſeems to have diſtinguiſhed the Proteſtants, and particularly the Engliſh, for amongſt the great numbers ſettled in Liſbon, only about forty or fifty perſons periſhed; owing in a great meaſure to the numbers of them that went out of town in the morning; it being the feſtival of All-Saints, and the day appointed for the celebration of the Auto-da-fe, when they choſe to avoid the inſults of the Portugueze populace. When the news of this dreadful event reached England, the whole kingdom was thrown into the utmoſt conſternation, at firſt it was greatly feared leſt its conſequences might affect public credit, conſidering the intereſt which the Britiſh merchants have in the Portugueze trade, but theſe fears ſubſided, when it was known, that the quarter of the town in which the Engliſh lived, and where they had their warehouſes, ſuffered the leaſt. The generous donation granted by the houſe of commons, in conſequence of a meſſage from the king, was chiefly ſent in corn, flour, rice, and beef, which were a very ſeaſonable relief to the poor Portugueze, as they were in the utmoſt diſtreſs for the neceſſaries of life. This action reflects indeliable honour on Britiſh humanity; and what enhances the merit of it is, the Engliſh themſelves were in actual want of grain at the ſame time; and the king of Portugal in order to ſhew his gratitude on this occaſion, ordered the Britiſh reſident, Mr. Caſtres, to give the preference in the diſtribution of theſe ſupplies to the Britiſh ſubjects; accordingly about a thirtieth part of the proviſions, and 2000 l. in money, were ſet aſide for that purpoſe, and the remainder was delivered to the Portugueze, for which their king returned his thanks to the Britiſh crown and nation.

ſtipulated that Great-Britain ſhould pay 20,000 l. as an indemnification for taking ſome Pruſſian veſſels during the late war, in return for which the Pruſſian monarch promiſed to pay the Sileſia loan, which he had ſtopt on that account. The fountain from whence this treaty flowed, was the care which the Britiſh monarch had at heart for the ſafety of his German dominions; and the jealouſly and averſion which the king of Pruſſia had conceived to the court of Peterſburgh: the former from his fear of the French, who he foreſaw would attack Hanover; and the latter who had formed a deſign of ſtriking ſome bold ſtroke, from a fear of reſtriction and controulment, by the near ſituation of the Ruſſians. Their views and intereſts thus chiming together, produced the above treaty; and king George had the further ſatisfaction of removing his ſuſpicions of this troubleſome and warlike prince, who hovered on the ſkirts of his electorate, at the head of 150,000 men, that could in a week over-run it; whom he had reaſon to dread, and whoſe conduct was at beſt but precarious. There is no occaſion to mention who made the firſt advances towards forming this treaty. The king of Pruſſia had an offer of the alliance of France, but he exchanged his connexions with that power for one with Great-Britain, which he knew would be of more advantage to his deſigns; though as to what his deſigns were, it is impoſſible to diſcloſe, becauſe it is believed he never imparted them to any confident or ally whatever; yet to this treaty, and that of Peterſburgh, muſt be imputed the bloody and deſtructive war in the empire which ſucceeded. The houſe of Auſtria was always ſuſpicious of his conduct, for during the laſt war he had given diſtinguiſhed proofs of his inconſtancy; he had an active and penetrating genius, poſſeſſed great martial abilities, with an unbounded ambition, and had always a large number of troops ready for action, which he had

had lately augmented beyond the proportion of his revenues: as ſoon as the empreſs-queen heard of this alliance, ſhe immediately threw herſelf into the arms of France, and now ſhe obtained the friendſhip of that power at the expence of the barrier againſt it in the Netherlands, and alſo concluded a treaty of alliance with the court of Verſailles on the firſt of May, and the empreſs of Ruſſia was invited to accede to this treaty, which ſhe afterwards did.

When the convention with Pruſſia was laid before the parliament, they granted the king 20,000 l. to make good his engagements, and a million to be employed as exigencies ſhould require. A bill was brought into the houſe by the honourable Charles Townſhend, Eſq; for compoſing a militia, and after receiving divers amendments it paſſed the commons, but in the lords, it fell upon a diviſion, the majority ſuppoſing it wanted further amendments.

In the month of January M. Rouillè, the French king's miniſter and ſecretary of ſtate, wrote a letter to Mr. Fox the Britiſh ſecretary, expoſtulating on the orders and inſtructions given to general Braddock and admiral Boſcawen; he complained on the inſult offered to the French flag, in taking two of their men of war, on the damages ſuſtained by the French ſubjects in taking their merchant ſhips, and finally, he demanded full reſtitution; and when that ſhould be made, he hoped all differences would be accommodated. Mr Fox was directed to anſwer, that no ſuch reſtitution would be complied with, and that the ſteps taken by the Britiſh officers, were rendered indeſpenſible by the hoſtilities, which the French began in the time of profound peace. Upon receipt of this anſwer, the French immediately began to repair the fortifications of Dunkirk, and they ſeized the Engliſh veſſels, in the different ports of the kingdom, and ſent their crews to priſon. At Breſt they employed a prodigious number of artificers and

ſeamen,

ſeamen, in equipping a large armament. At the ſame time they marched ſeveral bodies of troops along the coaſts of Picardy, Normandy, and Britanny; which ſo frightened the Britiſh miniſtry, that they were fully perſuaded the enemy intended to invade Great-Britain, though it was actually no more than a parade of marches and counter-marches, calculated to elude us, while they purſued ſome more feaſible deſign. The people caught the alarm from the evident ſigns of perplexity and conſternation, which appeared among the miniſtry; no one doubted the threatened invaſion for a little while, and every one expected a declaration of war; but this latter ſtep was ſo carefully avoided, that moſt people apprehended they were averſe to its being done, though the honour and intereſt of the nation loudly demanded it. When we conſider the French had with the greateſt inſolence encroached upon the Britiſh territories in America, had attacked, ſeized, and drove off our traders, had committed there all kinds of hoſtilities, while in Europe they menanced an invaſion, repaired the fortifications of Dunkirk, and their monarch offered large premiums to his ſubjects, who ſhould equip privateers, we ſhall be amazed that the Britiſh miniſtry reſolved to act on the offenſive, and neglected to employ the natural ſtrength of their country. The fears of a French invaſion had taken ſuch poſſeſſion of their minds, that they thought of nothing but repelling this ſcare-crow; they ordered colonel Yorke, the Britiſh reſident at the Hague, to demand of the Dutch the 6000 men as ſtipulated by treaty, which they are to furniſh when Great-Britain ſhall be threatened with an invaſion; the Dutch were perplexed by this demand, they foreſaw that if they complied, it would involve them in the war, and expoſe them to a land attack from France, which they dreaded; they therefore contrived ſeveral delays, before they could give an anſwer to the

Engliſh memorial, which king George at length perceiving, ordered the reſident to acquaint the princeſs regent, his daughter, that he would not inſiſt on his demand, upon which the Dutch came to a reſolution to adhere to a neutrality. About the latter end of March the king acquainted the parliament, that he had required a body of Heſſian troops, purſuant to the late treaty, who were to be forthwith brought over for the defence of theſe kingdoms. To this meſſage, it is certain, the parliament returned their thanks in a warm addreſs. This unanimity encouraged Mr. Fox, the new miniſter, to move for an addreſs, beſeeching the king, that he would order twelve battalions of his electoral troops, for a more effectual defence of this iſland. There were many members, who were utterly averſe to this motion, yet, conſidering the critical ſituation of affairs, they were afraid to oppoſe it, leſt they ſhould be expoſed to a more odious ſuſpicion. The addreſs being voted, and preſented, the king told them he would comply with their requeſt; and before the end of the following month, the Heſſians and Hanoverians were actually encamped in England; the expedition made uſe of on this occaſion ſhews how vigilant men can be when they pleaſe; but no ſuch activity marked the Engliſh affairs when we loſt Minorca, nor in equipping any of our armaments againſt the enemy. Here we ſhall conclude the events of the parliament, as nothing elſe material happened during the ſeſſion, which ended on the 27th of May. And now we ſhall reſume our thread of the German tranſactions.

As ſoon as the treaty of alliance between the courts of Vienna, Verſailles and Peterſburgh was concluded, they ſolicited the concurrence of thoſe of Madrid and Turin; but theſe wiſely reſolved to adhere to a neutrality. As to the conduct of the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, we ſtand too near the time to be a proper judge of it. When the treaty of Peterſburgh

burgh was made, it is certain the empreſs queen endeavoured to draw him into the confederacy, and it is not to be doubted, but that he was willing to contribute his aid towards humbling a prince, who had, during the laſt war, entered his dominions without any provocation, took poſſeſſion of his capital, routed his troops, and obliged him to pay a million of crowns to indemnify him for the expence of this expedition. Whatever anſwer the king of Poland gave to the empreſs queen we do not pretend to know: it is true, he did not ſign the treaty, perhaps becauſe he was ſituated in the very jaws of the enemy, and conſcious, that the firſt part of the ſtorm muſt fall upon himſelf. The remembrance of paſt misfortunes made him cautious now he entered into new meaſures, and yet ſhe conſidered him as having acceeded to the treaty; for when the king of Pruſſia afterwards demanded of her the cauſe in making warlike preparations, ſhe anſwered, they were for the defence of herſelf and *allies*; this latter expreſſion could mean nobody elſe but the elector of Saxony, as her other allies were then at too conſiderable a diſtance to be attacked by the king of Pruſſia. She even apprehended that he perfectly agreed with the ſentiments of the two empreſſes, but his advocates ſay this belief was falſely grounded; they affirm he miſtook the ſentiments of count Bruhl, his miniſter and favourite, for thoſe of the elector himſelf. It is certain the miniſter did all in his power, by the moſt ſcandalous and artful intrigues, to make an open breach between the king of Pruſſia and the empreſs of Ruſſia: but whether the king of Poland countenanced his proceedings, or whether the empreſs queen took his word as the ſame as his maſter, the world is yet in the dark. The king of Pruſſia, however, made a plauſible handle of Bruhl's letters, copies of which he found at Dreſden, and by many ingenious, and ſome erroneous conſtructions, he made the world believe the king

of Poland was actually in the confederacy againſt him: this ſort of caſuiſtry did him abundance of ſervice in England. Sweden was brought into the confederacy, in conſequence of the treaty of alliance between the empreſs queen and the king of France, tho' ſhe entered Germany upon a pretence of being guarantee of the treaty of Weſtphalia. The emiſſaries of France began to tamper among the ſenators of Sweden, who were no way averſe to the war, when they were informed of the ſtate of the confederacy: on the contrary, they entertained hopes of gaining conſiderable advantages by it, particularly the recovery of their ancient poſſeſſions in Pomerania: France did not fail to flatter their ambition; but a tranſaction happening in Sweden, proved ſuch a check to this intrigue, that nothing further was done during the remainder of this year. The diſpoſition of the diet or ſenate of Sweden was oppoſite to that of the king and queen; he was allied by inclination, and ſhe by blood to the king of Pruſſia. The ſenate beheld this contrary opinion in their majeſties with the utmoſt jealouſy; they narrowly watched their conduct; and it was in the courſe of this ſtrict obſervation, that they diſcovered a plot for altering the preſent form of the government, by augmenting the power of the crown. Several perſons of rank being convicted of being concerned in this conſpiracy were beheaded as principals; upon the whole it did not appear, that the king was concerned in this affair, yet he thought himſelf ſo hardly treated by the diet, that he threatened to reſign his royalty, and retire to his hereditary dominions in Germany.

The king of Pruſſia, who had perfect intelligence of all political tranſactions, kept his army ready to march on a moment's notice; but, in order to poiſon the minds of the proteſtants of all Europe with a deteſtation of the courts of the confederacy, he induſtriouſly circulated a report, that by a ſecret article in the

the treaty of Verſailles, the contracting powers, viz. France, Auſtria, and Ruſſia, had bound themſelves to deſtroy the proteſtant religion, and overturn the freedom of the empire, by a forced election of the king of the Romans. The cry of religion ſerved as a handle for both ſides. The partizans of the houſe of Auſtria declared, that the principal object of the treaty of alliance between the kings of Great Britain and Pruſſia, was the ruin of the catholic faith in Germany. During this war on paper, which found its way into the diet of the empire, and into the moſt reſpectable courts in Europe, the grand operation was preparing on a more ſolid and durable foundation: two conſiderable armies, with ſeveral large magazines, were aſſembling in Bohemia and Moravia. The king of Pruſſia, alarmed at theſe preparations, ordered his miniſter at Vienna to demand categorically, whether thoſe preparations for war were not deſigned againſt him, or what were the intentions of the Imperial court? but he received only an equivocal anſwer, that the empreſs queen, in the preſent ſituation of affairs, found it neceſſary to make thoſe preparations for the defence of herſelf and allies; and afterwards ſhe declared, that thoſe preparations were not reſolved on till after the king of Pruſſia had been ſome time employed in making armaments. Thus it is evident, that each ſide had reſolved on making war from motives purely its own. The king of Pruſſia was ready, and had been long waiting for an opportunity to ſtrike ſome coup d'eclat; his character and conduct verify the aſſertion. The empreſs queen, even during the laſt war, determined on retaking Sileſia the firſt favourable moment. Her alliances were made with this view, and her preparations for war were to give ſpirit for her negociations. This latter circumſtance obliged the king of Pruſſia to reſolve not to ſuſpend his operations any longer. He determined to enter Bohemia, in order

to deſtroy the Auſtrian armies and magazines in that kingdom; but the ſtorm firſt fell upon Saxony, which he reſolved to keep poſſeſſion of as a frontier, becauſe he had reaſon to believe the elector was in ſome meaſure connected with the two empreſſes. The king of Poland, who had dreaded this viſitation, had drawn the troops of his electorate together at Pirna, where they encamped, ſurrounded by entrenchments, and a numerous artillery. At firſt the king of Pruſſia ſeemed only to demand a free paſſage for his troops, with an obſervance of neutrality on the part of the Saxons; and as a ſecurity for which, they ſhould quit their poſt and diſperſe themſelves. The former part of this demand was granted, but the latter was refuſed; upon which the king of Pruſſia ſeized the towns of Leipſic and Dreſden, and formed a blockade round the Saxon camp at Pirna, in order to reduce them by famine, ſince its ſtrong ſituation rendered an attack unadviſeable. In the mean time his troops took poſſeſſion of all the magazines and granaries they could find in the electorate; and he ordered the revenues to be ſeized, and paid to Pruſſian officers *. Two Auſtrian armies were at this time forming in Bohemia under M. Brown and M. Picolomini, one of which he judged would ſpeedily march to the relief of the Saxons; therefore to keep them in awe, he ordered M. Schwerin to enter Bohemia from the county of Glatz, and M. Keith to penetrate into it on the ſide of Miſnia; but apprehending that they were not ſufficient, or not entirely

* As ſoon as the king of Pruſſia entered Saxony, proceſs was commenced againſt him in the emperor's aulic council, and in the diet of the empire, where he was condemned for contumacy; and the fiſcal acquainted him that he was put under the ban of the empire, and adjudged fallen from the dignities and poſſeſſions which he held under it: at the ſame time the circles of the empire were ordered to furniſh their contingents in men and money to put this ſentence in execution.

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confiding in their diſpoſitions, he committed the blockade of Pirna to an officer of inferior note, and entered Bohemia himſelf with the main body of his army: he joined his troops under M. Keith, and advanced to attack the Auſtrians at Lowoſchutz. Early in the morning, on the firſt day of October, the Pruſſian cavalry advanced to attack the enemy, who were covered by a numerous artillery; the good direction of this fire obliged them to recoil and retreat with conſiderable loſs; however, they returned to the charge, and made an impreſſion on the Auſtrian cavalry, as well as drove away ſome irregulars, who had galled them in flank; ſtill they ſuffered greatly, inſomuch that the king thought proper to order them to retreat to the rear of the army, from which they never afterwards advanced. The cannon, during this time, maintained a prodigious fire, and did great execution. M. Keith attacked the village of Lowoſchutz at the head of the infantry. After their powder and ſhot were expended, the enemy were forced out of it by the ſoldiers bayonets, and the Pruſſians afterwards ſet its ſuburbs on fire. However, the Auſtrian army was not broke, nor did it quit the field of battle: the Pruſſians advanced not an inch further than Lowoſchutz, where the king fixed his head quarters. The firing ceaſed on both ſides, without any apparent cauſe, as one had not gained ſo great an advantage, nor the other ſuffered ſo material a loſs to ſtagnate the action. At preſent the battle had all the appearances of being a drawn one, without being likely to produce any benefit to either, yet both armies ſung Te Deum, both generals claimed the victory, and the gazettes of Vienna and Berlin teemed with falſhood on this occaſion. The only way to reconcile them, is to acknowledge, which was really the fact, that both made a few priſoners, took a few cannon, and, for their trophies, gained a few colours. As to the loſs, that of the Pruſſians doubtleſs

leſs amounted to 2500 men, though they never owned it; but that of the Auſtrians is generally believed to be more, and yet not much. Both armies encamped on the field, and remained there during the following night: next day the Auſtrians decamped, croſſed the Egra in the face of their enemy, and retired to Budin for want of water. The Pruſſians returned to Saxony, and joined the troops, who had been left to block up the Saxons at Pirna. Thus, if the king of Pruſſia, when he entered Bohemia, intended to have wintered in that kingdom, he loſt the battle; but if his plan for this year's operations extended no further than to reduce the Saxons, he certainly gained it. M. Brown made divers motions to relieve the Saxons, who were now reduced to great hardſhips by famine, but he found it impoſſible, the Pruſſians had taken poſſeſſion of all the defiles, avenues, mountains, &c. for a conſiderable diſtance round about Pirna. The king of Poland, while the king of Pruſſia was in Bohemia, quitted his German dominions; and now he ſent a letter to count Rutowſki, who commanded at Pirna, veſting that officer with full power to ſurrender, or to take ſuch meaſures, which he thought moſt conducive to the preſervation of the troops. The Saxons were ſpent with hunger, and greatly fatigued by throwing bridges over the Elbe, and making ſeveral motions in order to effect their own delivery; their horſes were ſo weak, as not to be able to draw their artillery, and their poſt as difficult to leave as it was to force; therefore they reſolved in a council of war to ſurrender themſelves to the king of Pruſſia. He compelled many of them to enter into his ſervice, he obliged the electorate of Saxony to furniſh him with a great number of recruits, and he levied the moſt exorbitant contributions, which, in caſe of non-payment, he threatened ruin to the inhabitants by military execution, and he took up his winter quarters amongſt them; thus

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were the poor Saxons obliged to bear the burthen of a war againſt themſelves, and to have for their enemy the man who took upon himſelf the title of defender of proteſtantiſm, though this country is the ſtate to which that religion owes its eſtabliſhment and preſervation. He forced open the doors of the royal palace at Dreſden, though protected by the queen, to whom he had given the firmeſt aſſurances of all due reſpect: ſhe was uſed with violence, and even put in danger of her life, before ſhe quitted the cabinet in which the archives of the ſtate were lodged. Every cloſet and every cabinet was broke open, and every part was ſtrictly ſearched. Theſe extraordinary ſeverities and indecencies were decried by every civilized nation in Europe. The king of Pruſſia, in order to vindicate his conduct, publiſhed a memorial of the tranſactions, to which he annexed a copy of the authentic documents which he ſeized at Dreſden; but, upon the whole, it contained nothing more than what we have mentioned in our attempt to explain the motives of this German war; it was circulated with great induſtry in all the courts of Europe by his ambaſſadors; in England it was received with open arms by thoſe who found it their intereſt to become ſycophants and time-ſervers. Theſe took infinite pains to inſtil a good opinion of the king of Pruſſia into the minds of the people. They undertook to aſſert, that he was the defender of proteſtantiſm, and that he was ſo great and able an aſſiſtance to us, we could not, nay we ſhould be ruined without him *.

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* This noiſy nonſenſe about German politics turned the heads of the people; they forgot their own national diſpute, which in this ſtate of abſurdity and lethargy, teemed with ruin and diſgrace; they forgot, that but a little while before, the king of Pruſſia was the object of their utmoſt hatred, when they freely ſpent their money in Germany, for fear he ſhould get Sileſia, and now they began to pour forth their millions to prevent his loſing it.

It was diſloyalty, they affirmed, not to believe theſe tales, and yet they were palpable falſhoods: they were Jacobites and rebels who did not own that the king of Pruſſia was fighting for the cauſe of Great-Britain. The few ſenſible men who knew the true intereſt of their country, could not be heard in this tumultuous cry. Theſe proſtitutes of the public weal, made a maſk for the true welfare of this nation; they held out a falſe viſage to the people, who were taught to idolize this ſhadow of honour, this monument of deception; while impoſtors in great numbers took the field on paper, in ſhouting to the drunken mob, the praiſe of the Pruſſian demi-god.

The Britiſh affairs in America, wore as bad a complexion this year as laſt, partly owing to the miſchiefs and broils at home, and partly to the different opinions which influenced the aſſemblies of the ſeveral provinces; each was for attacking the enemy on his own frontiers, but not willing to aſſiſt his neighbour. The conduct of general Shirley, had in England been declared delitory, and conſidered as unſatisfactory; therefore it was determined to ſuperſede him, with another officer, and order him home; but even theſe orders were not dated in London, till the laſt day of March, and then the commander was

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it. Nay, what is more incredible, they ſuffered themſelves to be deluded by an ignus fatuus, that the Proteſtant religion was in danger; and yet in the laſt war, when Great-Britain had the empreſs queen in alliance, and the king of Pruſſia was aſſiſted by the king of France, they did not think the Proteſtant religion at all concerned; and he was then univerſally decried by ourſelves and allies, as a man void of faith, religion, and principle. When he entered upon this war, he began to cruſh the very ſtate that gave birth to Proteſtantiſm; and in a little time there were more Proteſtant ſtates fighting againſt him than for him; and even theſe latter few, were taken into our own immediate pay, to prevent their joining the oppoſite cauſe. Where then is the danger to which the Proteſtant religion is expoſed, but from the Proteſtants themſelves, cutting one another's throats?

but

but juſt appointed. Colonel Webb, carried theſe diſpatches to America, and he was followed by general Abercrombie, who arrived at New-York on the 20th of June, with ſome troops; but the earl of Loudon, the commander in chief, did not arrive there before the 23d of July. Whether theſe delays muſt be imputed to a ſtate of ſtupifaction at home, we know not: it is certain they ruined the plan of operations, which were this year concerted for attacking fort Niagara, ſituated between the lakes Ontario and Erie, in order to cut off the communication between Canada and Louiſiana. The marquis de Vandrueil, governor of Canada, being informed of this ſcheme, was determined to fruſtrate it. He got exact intelligence of the ſtate and condition of fort Oſwego, which was ſituated on the lake Ontario, and the number of veſſels on the lake; this fort had been built by Mr. Shirley, in order to open and ſecure a paſſage to go and attack the French forts Niagara and Frontenac, and ſome veſſels which were built on the lake, were deſigned to tranſport the troops into the enemies territories; it was alſo deſigned for covering the Iroquois, and ſecuring the Indian trade, though in fact they were ſo corrupted by the French, that there was no longer any dependence on them. Vandrueil diſpatched the marquiſs de Montcalm, a cruel wretch, who delighted in the moſt horrid butcheries, and every act of wanton barbarity, with about 3000 men to reduce this fort. As ſoon as he arrived on the banks of the lake, he received intimation that the Engliſh were ſending a conſiderable quantity of ſtores and proviſions to the fort, and he ſent off a detachment of Indians to attack the convoy, which was commanded by captain Bradſtreet, but that officer received them ſo well as to render their efforts ineffectual with loſs: from ſome priſoners, which he made on this occaſion, he learned the deſigns of the enemy, their numbers and poſition;

an account of which he diſpatched to general Abercrombie at Albany, and this officer ordered colonel Webb, to hold himſelf in readineſs to march to the relief of Oſwego. No other information arrived at Albany concerning Oſwego, till it was taken; Bradſtreet having ſent the ſtores and proviſions into the fort, proceeded to Schenectady. Montcalm embarked his troops and cannon in boats, and croſſed over the lake, and on the 11th of Auguſt he appeared before Oſwego; the garriſon of which conſiſted of 1600 men, commanded by colonel Mercer, an officer of approved bravery, and provided with one hundred pieces of cannon; but the fortifications of the place were not fit to reſiſt regular approaches, the materials were principally of timber, the defences badly contrived, and even unfiniſhed. Montcalm attacked it with thirty two pieces of cannon, and ſome mortars, but on the 13th colonel Mercer being killed, the garriſon fell into confuſion, the officers were divided in their opinions what to do, and on the 14th having conſidered that the place was untenable they demanded a capitulation, and ſurrendered on condition of being treated with humanity, and ſent priſoners to Montreal. However, Montcalm, did not obſerve this promiſe, he permitted his Indians to maſſacre the defenceleſs ſoldiers, as they ſtood on the parade; to aſſaſſinate lieutenant de la Court, though under the protection of a French officer, to barbarouſly ſcalp all the ſick in the hoſpital, and finally, in direct violation of the articles, he delivered up twenty of the garriſon to the Indians, in lieu of that number they had loſt during the ſiege, that they might be tortured to death, according to the cruel cuſtom of the country. The veſſels on the lake fell into the hands of the enemy; who immediately after the ſurrender of the fort demoliſhed it, and embarked with their priſoners and cannon for fort Frontenac. It has been mentioned that captain Bradſtreet, ſent intel-

intelligence to general Abercrombie, of the enemy's intentions on Oſwego, and that Mr. Webb was ordered to hold himſelf in readineſs to march; this information arrived at Albany on the 12th of July, but general Webb did not leave that place in order to proceed to Oſwego, till the 9th of Auguſt; on the 17th he received advice that the fort was taken, upon which he returned to Albany. The delay of this march was principally owing to the American governors: before general Webb could be provided with neceſſaries, lord Loudon arrived at Albany, which was on the 29th of July, and the relief of Oſwego was the firſt object of his attention; but he was strenuouſly oppoſed by the province of New-York and others, who urged the taking of Crown Point, not ſo much for the ſecurity of their own frontiers, as to divert him from relieving Oſwego, which they hoped would fall, that they might have ſome appearance of reaſon for blaming general Shirley, who had always the ſecurity of it much at heart, though he reſigned his command on the 25th of June. Theſe enemies to their country at length aquieſced in ſending general Webb, when it was too late. Nothing further was done; the troops wintered at Albany.

This year a new enemy ſtarted up againſt the Engliſh in the Eaſt-Indies: this was the Nabob of Bengal, or more properly ſpeaking, the Suba of the three Provinces of Bengal, Bahir, and Orixa; he had but lately aſpired to this dignity, which he obtained by a fortunate audacity; he was of a fickle and inconſtant diſpoſition, both in the meaſures of his government, and with his favourites; deſtitute of principle, void of ſentiment, either of the paſt or the future; ſplenetic without a cauſe, and cruel in his hatred; but his prevailing paſſions were avarice, and the love of riches. He was flattered by ſome of his courtiers, who were either afraid of him, or ſolicitous

of being in his favour, that the Engliſh, ſettled in his dominions, were immenſely rich, that he might under colour of granting them favour and protection, extort large ſums from them, and that in caſe of refuſal, his force was ſufficient to cruſh them. Animated by this advice, he determined to attack the Engliſh, in order to ſhew them his power, though at this time they had not given him the leaſt affront, nor manifeſted the leaſt diſlike to his perſon or government. His averſion to them proceeded from his information that they were rich. On the 4th of June, he ſeized the little town of Caſſimbuzar, ſituated on the Ganges, at a ſmall diſtance from Muxadavad his capital. Here he openly declared that his deſign was to deprive the Engliſh of all their ſettlements; and with this view he began his march ſouthwards along the banks of the river to Calcutta, which is the principal Engliſh ſettlement there. He pretended to have a cauſe for marching againſt Calcutta, which was, that Mr. Drake, the governor, had granted protection to one of his ſubjects, whom he had outlawed for conſpiring againſt him. We ſhall not enquire into the merits of this pretence; it is certain that he appeared before fort William at Calcutta, with an army of 70,000 men in the month of June. The governor, terrified by the numbers of the enemy, or, as being one of the people called Quakers, could not from motives of conſcience reſiſt an attack, immediately abandoned the fort, with many of the principal perſons in the ſettlement, who ſaved themſelves with their moſt valuable effects on board the ſhips. Notwithſtanding this deſertion, Mr. Holwell, the ſecond in command, aſſiſted by a few gallant friends, and the remains of a feeble garriſon, bravely held out the fort to the laſt extremity; but a noble defence could not keep an untenable place, or affect an ungenerous enemy. On the 20th of June the fort was taken, and the garriſon, conſiſting of one hundred

hundred and forty-ſix perſons being made priſoners, were for that night, in this ſultry climate, crammed into a dungeon, called the black-hole priſon, a cube of only eighteen feet, walled to the eaſtward and ſouthward, the only quarters from which they could receive air: there is no occaſion to deſcribe the cruel reſidence of theſe unhappy victims; the humane reader may eaſily fancy it; Mr. Holwell, with only twenty-two others came out alive next morning, to paint a ſcene of the moſt unfortunate diſtreſs which perhaps human nature ever ſuffered; the reſt were ſuffocated or trampled to death. The Suba queſtioned him concerning the treaſure in the fort, and though Mr. Holwell, affirmed there was none, yet he obſtinately adherred to his miſtaken opinion, and ordered them to be ſhackled and conducted to his capital, where they under-went another ſeries of miſeries: at length being convinced that there actually was no treaſure at Calcutta, and his grand-mother interpoſing in their behalf, he granted them their liberty. This loſs was ſeverely felt by the Eaſt-India company, as it was the principal ſettlement which they had in Bengal, and the fort the only ſecurity which they had to this valuable part of their trade. To retrieve theſe affairs admiral Watſon and colonel Clive were called with their forces from the coaſt of Coromandel, which they happily effected in the courſe of the following year.

Troubles, prior to theſe, had ſome time ago broke out on the coaſt of Coromandel, but we poſtponed giving a detail of them, as they had no connexion with any European concern, till we mentioned the events in India during the preſent year. In 1749, the grand Mogul, to whom all the Nabobs are ſubject, depoſed Sundah Saheb, the Nabob of Arcot, and raiſed to that dignity Anawerde Khan, who immediately entered into a ſort of alliance with the Engliſh. The diſgraced Nabob, animated with the thoughts of revenge,

venge, had recourſe to Monſieur Dupliex, the governor of Pondicherry, for a ſcheme to depoſe his rival; Dupliex, in conſideration of his granting to the French ſome valuable immunities in caſe he ſucceeded, as well as glad of the opportunity of robbing the Engliſh of an ally, ſent a body of French troops to his aſſiſtance, with whom, and ſome followers of his own, he defeated and ſlew Anawerde Khan in the plains of his own capital, and re-aſſumed the government of the Province. Mahommed Ali Khan, ſon to the deceaſed Nabob, fled with a few friends to Tiruchinapalli, a place of ſome ſtrength, and lying conſiderably to the ſouthward, where he ſolicited the aſſiſtance of the Engliſh, who granted his requeſt, and ſent major Lawrence with a ſupply of men and money to his relief: in conſequence of this reinforcement ſome advantages were gained over the enemy; but nothing material was done, and ſoon after major Lawrence returned to England. He then came to fort St. David, and begged their more effectual ſupport, urging that his, and their cauſe, was the ſame; for, if the enemies were ſuffered to proceed in their conqueſts, they ſhould both be obliged to quit the whole coaſt. This repreſentation gained him another reinforcement, but nothing being attempted, the Engliſh ſeparated from his army, which the enemy were no ſooner informed of, than they gave him battle, and totally defeated him in April 1750. He again retired to Tiruchinapalli, and again ſupplicated the aſſiſtance of the Engliſh, who entered into a cloſe alliance with him, in conſideration of his ceding to them ſome commercial points which had been long in diſpute; mean while the conqueror followed him to his ſtrong-hold, and laid ſiege to it. The firſt ſtep which the Engliſh took, was the ſending a detachment into the Province of Arcot, in order to divide the French forces; on this occaſion Mr. Clive, purveyor of the army, offered

offered his ſervice as a volunteer, and he was allowed to command this expedition. He made the utmoſt diſpatch to Arcot, and with two hundred and ten Europeans he ſeized that city, before the enemy had any knowledge of his march. As ſoon as Sundah Saheb heard of this tranſaction, he detached his ſon to retake Arcot; this youth beſieged it, and having at length made two breaches, he gave a general aſſault, but was ſo gallantly received and repulſed by Mr. Clive, that he retired from before the place with precipitation. At this juncture Mr. Clive, was reinforced by a detachment under captain Kirkpatrick, with which, and his garriſon, he immediately marched after the enemy, and on the 3d of December 1752, gave them a total defeat in the plains of Arani, with very little loſs on his own ſide; the cities of Arani and Kajevaran ſurrendered in conſequence. At the beginning of the next year the enemy having collected their forces, conſiſting of French and Indians, advanced towards Madraſs, but hearing of Mr. Clive's approach, they retired to Koveripauk, about fifteen miles from Arcot; he ſtill continuing to purſue them, they reſolved to give him battle, placing their hopes of victory on their vaſt ſuperiority in numbers; he advanced up to ſome intrenchments which they had thrown up, where the diſpute laſted ſome time, with doubtful advantage, but at length it terminated in favour of Mr. Clive; the French ſurrendered, but it being dark when the battle ceaſed, the Indians got off, nevertheleſs this action proved ſuch a ſevere blow to them, that they were never able to make head again in the Province of Arcot. By this time, major Lawrence, had returned from England, and was arrived at fort St. David, having aſſumed the command in chief of all the forces; he began his march for Tiruchinapalli, in order to attack Sundah Saheb, who on receiving advice of his approach retired from Tiruchinapalli to Syrinham. The Nabob of Tanjour

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ſent a body of troops to the aſſiſtance of major Lawrence, by way of eſpouſing the cauſe of Mahommed Ali Khan, for whom the Engliſh all this while were fighting. The Britiſh officer formed a blockade round Syrinham, which in a ſhort time reduced Sundah Saheb's army to the utmoſt diſtreſs by the want of proviſions, he himſelf in attempting to eſcape was made priſoner, and his head was ſtruck off by order of the Nabob of Tanjour, to prevent diſputes which might have ariſen among the captors. On the 3d of June, Monſieur Law ſurrendered himſelf, with his troops and allies priſoners of war. Mr. Clive who had been detatched on ſeperate ſerſervice, reduced in the mean time two of Sundah Saheb's fortified temples near Syrinham; afterwards he advanced into the kingdom of Golconda, and having drove the French out of the capital, he made them all priſoners. Monſieur Dupliex, now finding all his ſchemes completely baffled, and his troops every where made priſoners, reſolved to ſue for peace; accordingly with the conſent of the companies in Europe, a convention was concluded, which ſtipulated that all territories taken ſhould be reſtored; the Nabobs raiſed by the influence of either, ſhould be acknowledged by both, but neither ſhould interfere with the diſputes among them. By this chain of ſignal ſucceſſes, Mahommed Ali Khan was eſtabliſhed in the government of Arcot. Mr. Clive returned to England, but the French continuing in the field, and having gained ſome advantages over major Lawrence, it was thought neceſſary by the company of Directors, to ſend him back again; and in 1755, admiral Watſon arrived in the Eaſt-Indies, who concerted meaſures with Mr. Clive, for reducing Tulagee Angria, a piratical prince in the neighbourhood of Bombay, who had been for many years a troubleſome neighbour to the Engliſh trade in the Eaſt-Indies. Mr. Clive with his troops having embarked on

board the admiral's fleet, they ſailed for Geriah, the pirate's capital, which they ſo briſkly attacked by ſea and land, that on the 13th of February 1756, it ſurrendered at diſcretion: a large quantity of cannon, money, and effects, were found in the place; and in the harbour they ſeized the whole of Angria's fleet: they left an Engliſh garriſon in the fort, and returned to Madraſs, where hearing of the loſs of Calcutta, they in October following departed for Bengal.

In Europe, the Britiſh affairs did not wear ſo promiſſing an aſpect, where the iſland of Minorca was in the mean time loſt. We have already mentioned that the French by threatening to invade Great-Britain, and marching troops along their coaſt, in order to give weight to this report, ſo engroſſed the attention of the Britiſh miniſtry to that meaſure, that they effectually purſued another deſign with ſecurity; yet the Britiſh agents, reſidents, conſuls, ambaſſadors, &c. at different places, bordering on the Mediterranean, continued to ſend repeated advices to the miniſtry, from Auguſt 1755 to April 1756, that there was a grand armament equipping at Toulon, conſiſting of twelve or fifteen ſhips of the line, with tranſports to carry 20,000 men, who were encamped in the neighbourhood, and the ſquadron being victualled for only two months, could be deſtined for no other place than Minorca *; notwithſtanding

* The earl of Briſtol the Britiſh ambaſſador at the court of Turin, informed the miniſtry in the month of Auguſt 1755, of the great preparations making at Toulon. Conſul Bertles, at Nice, and conſul Banks, at Carthagena, did the ſame. Sir Benjamin Keene, at Madrid, wrote to Mr. Fox, particularly, aſſuring him, "That the French deſigned to invade Minorca." Multitudes of letters were every month received from different perſons, at the admiralty, —s, and ſecretary of ſtate's offices; all confirming the account of great preparations making at Toulon, for equipping

ſtanding this information, notwithſtanding the importance of the Britiſh commerce in the Mediterranean, and notwithſtanding the remonſtrances of general Blakeney, deputy-governor, of Minorca, repreſenting the weakneſs of the garriſon in St. Philip's caſtle, yet did the m——y from ſome motives, which neither are, nor perhaps ever will be known; leave the whole Mediterranean unprotected, except by two or three inconſiderable ſhips and frigates which could be of no ſervice, till the month of May 1756, nor did they even ſend to general Blakeney his officers, who were in England upon leave of abſence, till it was too late; inſtead of diſtinguiſhing themſelves by their activity, as they had done when they tranſported the foreign mercenaries into England, they were marked by all Europe for their ſupineneſs, which the ſubjects of theſe realms did not fail to brand with the moſt odious and bitter appellations. At length when the deſtination of the enemy's armament was univerſally known, they ſeemed to rouſe from their bed of lethargy, and like perſons newly waked, they acted with ſuch precipitation as fully proved the wiſdom of their meaſures, and goodneſs of their intentions*; inſtead of ſending a ſquadron ſuperior to that of the enemy, under the direction of an officer, of approved conduct and courage, together

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equipping a large armament; and from time to time telling not only the progreſs made in it, but alſo more clearly pointing out the place of its deſtination. Theſe united teſtimonies were either diſbelieved, or permitted to lie neglected, without a proper regard being paid to their contents and veracity, for ſome reaſons which the public will never be acquainted with.

* We cannot omit one obſervation on the ſcandalous and public venality of theſe times, ſuch a ſpirit of gaming univerſally prevailed, as perhaps never was ſeen or heard of in any age before. "It was common for ——— of the firſt diſtinction, to aſſociate and enter into ſtrict connexions with notorious ſharpers, nay, even to walk with them arm in arm in public places."

together with a proper reinforcement for general Blakeney; they ſent on the 7th day of April ten ſhips of the line, without either hoſpital or fire-ſhip, in very indifferent order, but poorly manned, and commanded by admiral Byng, an officer who had never been diſtinguiſhed for his courage, nor was he at all popular in the navy, having on board as part of their complement a regiment of ſoldiers, to be landed at Gibralter; and between forty and fifty officers, and near one hundred recruits, as a reinforcement for general Blakeney. The inſtructions which admiral Byng received, were actually amazing; he was, when he came to Gibraltar, to enquire whether any French ſquadron had paſſed the Streights, and if they had, and as it was probable they would be gone to America, he was to detach rear admiral Weſt, the ſecond in command, after them. Now the reader, will doubtleſs wonder, that ſuppoſing Mr. Byng ſhould be joined at Gibraltar, by the two or three Britiſh ſhips in the Mediterranean, which was but a mere chance, what force could he detach after the enemy's fleet, which according to information conſiſted of twelve or fifteen ſhips of the line, and have left for the ſervice of the Mediterranean? On the 12th of April, the French ſquadron ſailed from Toulon, conſiſting of thirteen ſhips of the line, and ſeven frigates, commanded by M. de la Galiſſoniere, with about 11,000 men on board tranſports, commanded by the duke de Richlieu. On the 18th, they landed at Cieudadella, on the iſland of Minorca, and on the 25th they appeared before the caſtle of St. Philip, the chief fortreſs in the iſland. When news of theſe tranſactions arrived in England, the court immediately declared war againſt France, in the uſual form, on the 18th of May; and on the 9th or June, the French king ſigned a like declaration againſt the king of Great-Britain.

Admiral Byng reached Gibraltar on the 2d of May, where he was joined by captain Edgecumbe with one ſhip and a ſloop, who informed him, that the French troops had actually made a deſcent on the iſland of Minorca, that there was a French ſquadron of thirteen ſhips of the line cruiſing off the iſland, and that he had been obliged to retire on their approach. The admiral, agreeable to his inſtructions, demanded of lieutenant general Fowke, the lieutenant governor of of Gibraltar, a detachment from his garriſon, equal to a battalion, upon which the governor called a council of war to deliberate on two ſucceſſive orders, which he had received from lord Barrington, the ſecretary at war, which appeared to him inconſiſtent and equivocal; the majority were of opinion that no troops ought to be put on board the fleet, except a detachment to ſupply the deficiency in the little ſquadron of captain Edgecumbe, who had left a number of his men with captain Scroope to aſſiſt in the defence of fort St. Philip. Mr. Byng finding that watering and cleaning here would be attended with delay and difficulty, reſolved in the mean time to communicate all theſe pieces of intelligence to the lords of the admiralty, but unfortunately for himſelf, he made uſe of ſome expreſſions in his letter, which, in all probability proved his ruin. He remarked, that if he had had the good fortune to have been at Mahon before the enemy landed on the iſland, he could have prevented their getting footing on it; but he believed the throwing in a ſmall reinforcement would be impolitic, as the ſiege could not be raiſed without a conſiderable land force, therefore it would only be adding to the number of men that muſt fall into the hands of the enemy. He complained, that there were no magazines at Gibraltar for ſupplying the ſquadron with neceſſaries, that the careening wharfs, pits, and ſtore-houſes were entirely decayed, ſo that he ſhould find the greateſt difficulty in cleaning

ing the ſhips that were foul, and this was the caſe with ſome of the ſhips he had brought from England, as well as with thoſe which had been cruizing ſome time in the Mediterranean. Some parts of this letter were an actual impeachment of the miniſtry, for not ſending him ſooner, and for neglecting the magazines and wharfs at Gibraltar. Apprehenſion and reſentment now took place in their minds. The loſs of Minorca they foreſaw would raiſe a national clamour, and will it be denied, that from this time they began to take ſuch meaſures as ſhould transfer the blame from themſelves to him who had preſumed to diſapprove of their conduct? On the 8th of May the admiral left Gibraltar; off Majorca he was joined by captain Harvey, and on the 19th he arrived within ſight of Mahon, when he detached captain Harvey to land a letter for general Blakeney, informing him that the fleet was come to his aſſiſtance; but before this attempt could be made, the French ſquadron appeared, upon which he recalled captain Harvey, and ſome frigates which he had ſent to reconnoitre the mouth of Mahon harbour. As it was evening when the enemy appeared the engagement was deferred till next day, when, about two o'clock, admiral Byng threw the ſignal to engage, upon which rear admiral Weſt, with his diviſion, bore down upon the enemy, and attacked them with ſuch intrepedity, as to drive thoſe ſhips, which were oppoſite to him, out of the line, and, had he been properly ſupported from the vice admiral's diviſion, it is not doubted but he would have gained a complete victory; but the want of this, prevented his purſuing the advantage he had gained, leſt his communication with the reſt of the fleet ſhould be cut off. Admiral Byng forbore to attack from an accident, which happened to the Intrepid, one of his diviſion, at the beginning of the action, who being ſo diſabled that ſhe could not be managed, fell on the next ſhip in poſition,

and

and this obliged the others to throw a-back to avoid confuſion; but we think we may ſafely venture to aſſert, that had this accident not happened, Mr. Byng would ſtill have been as far from the action; for when he was exhorted by his captain to bear down upon the enemy, he coolly replied, that he would not run into admiral Mathews's error, who precipitately broke the line and attacked ſingly; and, upon the whole, it ſeems as if he was entirely averſe to fighting, either from timidity, or an overſtrained obſervance of diſcipline. Certain it is, he might have been engaged, for he was once ſo near that the hull of his ſhip received a few ſhot; but he kept aloof, and appeared to heſitate, while Galiſſioniere, the French admiral, ſeemed to care as little for fighting as he. It is true the Frenchman was ſuperior both in number of men and weight of metal, yet he edged out of Mr. Byng's way, and thus the battle ended. Three of the Engliſh ſhips were greatly damaged, and there was a conſiderable number of ſeamen ill on board the ſquadron, which determined Mr. Byng to call a council of war, at which he permitted the land officers to be preſent: he ſaid, that the enemy had the advantage of ſending their wounded and ſick to Minorca, and of having freſh men in return, and he added, that it was his opinion it was impoſſible to relieve the caſtle of St. Philip, and therefore they ought to go back to Gibraltar, which might require protection. The council concurred in theſe ſentiments, and they were accordingly put in execution. Had Mr. Byng been defeated, this meaſure would certainly have been a prudent one: but as the engagement was little more than a ſort of a ſkirmiſh, he ought to have fought the enemy's fleet a ſecond time, and regulated his conduct on the iſſue of that event; his returning to Gibraltar can be no way juſtified, for though it is true that fortreſs was extremely weak at this time, yet it cannot be ſuppoſed Galiſſioniere

niere would deſert his ſtation of covering Minorca, to act on the offenſive againſt Gibraltar, while there was an Engliſh ſquadron in the Mediterranean; and tho' we may very well affirm, Mr. Byng had not a ſufficient force for the relief of Minorca, yet it is certain he might have landed what little he had: for his neglect in this, his retreat to Gibraltar, and his ſcandalous conduct in the engagement, we muſt impartially declare he merited puniſhment: in all other reſpects, let the blame be laid where it ought. After the battle, Mr. Byng wrote an account of it to the lords of the admiralty, informing them alſo of his retreat to Gibraltar. This letter arrived ſeveral days before it was publiſhed *, and when it appeared in the Gazette, it was unfairly and miſerably mangled; ſeveral expreſſions were wholly eraſed, others curtailed, and ſome paragraphs entirely ſtruck out, which tended either to vindicate his conduct, or imply a cenſure on his ſuperiors. This letter produced a clamour againſt the admiral throughout the kingdom, and every baſe and low art was uſed to foment this general rage; emiſſaries mingled in all public aſſemblies, even to the very mobs in the ſtreets, to load the devoted admiral with ignominy, and harangue on his cowardice, folly, inſolence, and miſconduct. They vilified his perſon; and not content with ignorantly and ſlanderouſly wounding his private character, they hired the rabble to hang and burn him in effigy, and, in order to prepare the people for the approaching event, certain underſtrappers to a venal weak and worthleſs power, exaggerated rhe terrible conſequences of loſing Minorca; in a word, every artifice, though ever ſo wicked, was practiſed to keep up the reſentment of the peo-

* Ten days before it appeared admiral Hawke was ordered to ſupercede admiral Byng.

ple. It is now no ſecret, that all theſe inviduous pains were taken to engage their attention from the real objects, which had occaſioned their loſſes and diſgraces, to whoſe ſupine negligence, ignorance, ſtupefaction, and miſconduct, the loſs of Minorca was more principally owing, than the bad behaviour of Mr. Byng; and this cruel treatment to his character, perſon, and actions, while he was abſent, and before he was legally convicted, will reflect eternal defamation on the managers and fomenters of this popular cry.

When the French army appeared before fort St. Philip, governor Blakeney ſent a letter to the French general, deſiring to know his reaſons for coming there; the anſwer implied, that he was come to reduce the iſland by way of retaliation for the loſſes which the French king and his ſubjects had ſuſtained in the taking of their ſhips by the Engliſh. In as ſhort a time as poſſible the operations of the ſiege began; at firſt the duke de Richlieu erected his batteries on a point called cape Mola, where he was at too great a diſtance to do any execution, and he was ſo expoſed to the ſevere fire of the garriſon, that he thought proper to alter his plan of attack, by advancing on the ſide of St. Philip's town; here he opened ſeveral batteries, which kept an inceſſant fire on the caſtle, but ſoon after the Britiſh ſquadron appeared, which ſo elevated the ſpirits of the garriſon, that, by their redoubled efforts, they deſtroyed many of the enemy's works; and Mr. Boyd, commiſſary of the ſtores, ventured to embark in a little boat of ſix oars to go to the admiral; he paſſed the enemy's batteries without harm, notwithſtanding they made a diſcharge of muſquetry and cannon at him; but when he was got into the open ſea, he perceived the ſquadron to be at a great diſtance, and two of the enemy's light veſſels purſuing him, whereupon he determined to return to the caſtle, and was landed without having received

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the leaſt damage. This tranſaction fairly confutes Mr. Byng's motion, that it was impracticable to open a communication with the garriſon. Next day the French ſquadron returned to their ſtation at the mouth of the harbour, which threw a damp on the ſpirits of the beſieged. In the evening they were informed by a French deſerter, that the Engliſh ſquadron had been defeated in an engagement, and this was ſoon confirmed by a feu de joye in the French camp. The brave garriſon, notwithſtanding this mortification, reſolved to acquit themſelves with honour and intrepidity, hoping that the Engliſh ſquadron would be reinforced, and return to their relief. The firing continued with great alacrity on both ſides, till the 27th of June, when the enemy having made a practicable breach reſolved to give a general aſſault. They began with attacking the outworks, the forts Charles and Marlborough, and after a terrible ſlaughter they gained poſſeſſion of two ſtrong redoubts; after which the duke de Richlieu beat a parley, and deſired leave to bury his dead, which general Blakeney granted, and the Frenchman, in the interim, threw effectual reinforcements of men into all the lodgments he had made. The governor was in the mean time employed in holding a council of war, concerning the defence of the place, at which the majority declared for a capitulation, urging, that the works were in many parts ruined, and the garriſon ſo exhauſted by ſevere duty, as not to be able to ſuſtain another deſperate aſſault, which they had reaſon to apprehend would be given, as the duke de Richlieu was alarmed at a report, that the marſhal de Belliſle would be ſent to ſupercede him; beſides they deſpaired of being relieved. Several members of the council oppoſed theſe reaſons, with ſuch excellent arguments as ſeemed to confute them; but, as perhaps they did not know the ſtate of the enemy, who had been lately reinforced with

a great number of men, and ſuch a prodigious train of artillery as no fortification could withſtand, we ſhall not repeat them. A capitulation was demanded, and granted, importing, that the garriſon ſhould march out with the honours of war, and be conveyed by ſea to Gibraltar.

That miſconduct which ſent out admiral Byng too late, and with too ſlender a force, diſpatched admiral Hawke to take the command of the fleet, and relieve Mahon; had this admiral been ſent at firſt, the iſland had doubtleſs been preſerved, but the ſending him now, when, by this further delay, the fleet could no longer be of any ſervice to Minorca, was waſting the time of a brave man upon an idle errand, when the intereſts of the country required vigorous meaſures. If we conſider rightly, this meaſure was taken to appeaſe the diſcontents of the people, at leaſt that part of them who began to perceive the negligence of thoſe at the helm. Mr. Hawke was ordered to ſend home the devoted ſcape-goat; and, as a further purification of the *righteous*, Lord Tyrawley, who went with him, was ordered to ſupercede lieutenant-general Fowke in his goverment of Gibraltar, and ſend him home alſo. When Sir Edward Hawke arrived off Minorca, he found the iſland was taken; however, he cruized about, expoſed to violent tempeſts, and other hardſhips, while the French fleet lay ſafe in the harbour of Toulon.

When admiral Byng arrived in England he was ſent under a ſtrong guard to Greenwich hoſpital, where he was confined a cloſe priſoner, till the officers from the Mediterranean could be ſpared to attend his trial by a court martial. When general Blakeney arrived in London he met with a gracious reception at court, and was by the king promoted to the rank of an Iriſh baron. Party lifted him up as an object worthy of public veneration, and the people idolized

lized him in his infirmities. The ſame party trampled upon Byng with abhorrence and contempt. Such was prejudice and paſſion. A few who were of a medium caſt, ſaw that theſe officers were viewed at the different ends of a falſe perſpective; they ſaw too, that it was contrived with great ingenuity, and applied with the utmoſt dexterity, which never failed to deceive, and work ſelf-preſervation. At this time addreſſes were brought from all parts of this kingdom to the throne, lamenting the late miſcarriages, praying, that the authors of them might be brought to juſtice, hinting at the miſconduct of the miniſtry, in not ſending timely and effectual ſuccours, and almoſt inſiſting on a militia.

The firſt victim offered to quiet the diſcontents of an injured people was lieutenant general Fowke, whoſe remarkable conduct and integrity, as well as his amiable private character, had always, till this unfortunate period, when he fell under the diſpleaſure of the government, diſtinguiſhed him as a man of worth and honour; he was accuſed of having diſobeyed the orders of the ſecretary at war, which the reader will ſee in the notes *. Mr. Fowke alledged,

* *To lieut. gen.* F——ke, *or, in his abſence, to the commander in chief in his majeſty's garriſon at* Gibraltar.

War-Office, March 21, 1756.

SIR,

I am commanded to acquaint you, that it is his majeſty's pleaſure that you receive into your garriſon lord Robert Bertie's regiment, to do duty there; and in caſe you ſhall *apprehend*, that the French *intend* to make any attempt upon his majeſty's iſland of Minorca, it is his majeſty's pleaſure, that you make a detachment out of the troops in your garriſon equal to a battalion, to be commanded by a lieutenant-colonel and major, to be the eldeſt in your garriſon, to be put on board the fleet for the relief of Minorca, as the admiral ſhall think convenient, who is to carry them to the ſaid iſland. I am

Your humble Servant,

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that they were confuſed, contradictory, and implied a diſcretionary power. The court was equally divided,

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To lieut. gen. F——ke, *or, in his abſence, to the commander in chief in his Majeſty's garriſon in* Gibraltar.

War-Office, April 1, 1756.

SIR,

It is his majeſty's pleaſure, that you receive into your garriſon the women and children belonging to lord Robert Bertie's regiment.

To lieut. gen. F—— ke, *or the commander in chief at* Gibraltar.

War-Office, May 12, 1756.

SIR,

I wrote to you by general Stewart: *if* that order is *not* complied with, *then* you are now to make a detachment of 700 men out of your own regiment and Guiſe's; and alſo another detachment out of Pulteney's and Panmure's regiments, and ſend them on board the fleet for the relief of Mahon. But *if* that order *has* been complied with, *then* you are to make only one detachment of 700 men, to be commanded by another lieutenant-colonel and major, and to ſend it to Mahon; and you are alſo to detain all ſuch empty veſſels as ſhall come into your harbour, and keep them in readineſs for any *farther tranſportation of troops*. I have alſo his royal highneſs the duke of Cumberland's commands to deſire, that you will keep your garriſon as alert as poſſible, during this *critical time*, and give ſuch *other aſſiſtance* as may be in your power for the relief of Minorca; taking care, however, not to fatigue or *endanger* your own garriſon.

Theſe letters Mr. Fowke received at one time from the ſame hand. The third letter not mentioning that it ſuperceded the firſt, left it in full force. The word *if* at the beginning of this laſt letter, and other parts of it, ſeemed to imply that the other order was diſcretionary. Upon the whole, Mr. Fowke thought they were both together unintelligible, and he called a council of war at Gibraltar, not to deliberate, whether he *ſhould obey* them, but *how* he ſhould *underſtand* them. By the firſt letter lord Robert Bertie's regiment, commonly called the fuziliers, was ordered into garriſon: by the ſecond he was ordered to receive the wives and children, who muſt have diſembarked with the regiment [this letter was meant, that the governor ſhould conclude from it the regiment was to be ſent to Minorca, and it was to prevent any uſeleſs mouths going thither: but is not this drawing concluſions with-

ed, whether they ſhould acquit him, or ſuſpend him for a year; but the preſident, who in theſe caſes has the caſting vote, gave it againſt the priſoner; and the king ſoon after diſmiſſed him from his ſervice. The trial and ſentence of admiral Byng did not happen till the following year.

Notwithſtanding all attempts to make Byng the only object of public reſentment, it became in the long run impoſſible, the miniſtry ſhared equally with him, and the clamour continued to be throughout the kingdom. As the miniſtry were ſtrong at the bottom they might have withſtood theſe ſhocks, had they agreed among themſelves. The loſs of Minorca wrought ſeveral alterations in the adminiſtration. The duke of Devonſhire preſided at the board of treaſury, in lieu of the duke of Newcaſtle. Mr. Legg was made chancellor of the Exchequer, in the room of Mr. Littleton made a peer, and the earl Temple, brother-in-law to Mr. Pitt, preſided at a new board of admiralty. The loſs of Oſwego in America added

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without premiſes? or is it cuſtomary in military orders, which cannot be too clearly expreſſed?] and by the third, the regiment was ſuppoſed to be on board. Now does it appear, that Mr. Fowke was to ſend a detachment, together with fuziliers to Minorca? or that he was to ſend a detachment from the garriſon, detaining the fuziliers at Gibraltar? after 275 men had been ſpared to captain Edgcumbe, the whole garriſon was but 2531, and the ordinary duty required 839, therefore there was not enough for three reliefs; and this too, at a time when the place was ſuppoſed to be in danger, nay when the government themſelves thought ſo, as is evident from the concluſion of the laſt letter. This determined the council of war not to ſend any troops to Minorca. But ſuppoſing the orders had been poſitive, and he had obeyed them, as they ought to have arrived, viz. ſent 700 men according to the firſt letter, and 700 according to the third, would he have had enough left for the defence and preſervation of the fortreſs?—And to crown the whole, what could be the meaning of that order to detain all empty veſſels for a *farther* tranſportation of troops,—was he to embark the whole garriſon, and abandon the place?

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more fuel to the flame; and now the fears of the people about a French invaſion having ſubſided, the Hanoverians, who were under their noſes, were loaded with a conſiderable ſhare of this popular indignation; but it being thought neceſſary for the defence of their own country to ſend them back, it was accordingly done: part of the kingdom rejoiced at this meaſure, while another languiſhed at the the folly which brought them.

On the ſecond of December the parliament met, when the clamour againſt the miniſtry was as great within doors as it was without. Mr. F—— thought he bore too great a ſhare of the public odium, and therefore reſigned his poſt of ſecretary of ſtate, but not without hopes of reſuming it with augmented power, for which he apprehended the embaraſſment of parties would afford him an opportunity. As he was a principal prop of the miniſtry, his removal occaſioned the whole ſtructure to fall to pieces. It could not ſeem unnatural for that party which worked the downfall of this, to ſucceed to the vacant places. On the 4th of December Mr. Pitt was appointed ſecretary of ſtate, and many other conſonant promotions were made. This miniſter, from very laudable motives, attempted to give a turn to the affairs of his country, and thoſe who had reſigned did not make much oppoſition in parliament; he, by a ſpirit peculiar to himſelf, began to prepare for attacking France heartily by ſea, a method which he knew would moſt affect her, and be productive of the only ſolid advantage which this nation could reap from a war with her: he aimed at the empire of the ſea, and France was not ready for ſuch an enemy, having had all along to deal with miniſters of inferior abilities. Some other ſtates of Europe were ſurpriſed; he declared poſitively againſt all foreign ſubſidies, and aſſerted, that not even half a man ſhould be ſent to Germany; he was unanimouſly applauded, and

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all degrees in the kingdom gave themſelves up to hope, except a few, being the old junto, who finding that their new aſſociates would not enter into ſome meaſures which favoured the views of the ——— ſet hard to work to under-mine his narrow bottom. They repreſented him and his adherents, as imperious, obſtinate, and ignorant, and even went ſo far as to queſtion their loyalty.

But at preſent the trial of admiral Byng, diverted all attention; which was held on board the St. George man of war in Portſmouth; when after a long ſitting the court unanimouſly agreed, he had been negligent in the performance of his duty at the time; he ought to have engaged the French admiral; and that this negligence partly aroſe from an error in his judgment; but from many favourable ſymptoms, the court thought him an object worthy of mercy, and therefore recommended him, becauſe the 12th article of war, which, by the bye, Mr. Byng had greatly promoted, preſcribes death without mitigation in caſes of negligence. Many of the officers who compoſed this tribunal, manifeſted ſigns of grief at his condemnation, and it was generally believed that the admiral thought he had fully diſcharged his duty; but he relied too much on conſcious innocence. Great intereſt was made in his behalf, and perhaps his preſervation would have been effected, had not the moſt infamous arts been uſed, to whet the ſavage appetites of the populace, and make them cry aloud for blood and vengeance; therefore it was judged neceſſary to ſacrifice him, to appeaſe that inhuman fury; but the warrant of the lords of the admiralty, directing his execution, one gentleman of the board refuſed to ſign, for reaſons which to us appear extremely eligible; the reader will ſee them in the note*.

The

* "The twelfth article of war, on which admiral Byng's ſentence is grounded, ſays, "That every perſon who, in time of action,

The 14th of March, 1757, was the day appointed for the admiral's execution; he was at this time on board the Monarque man of war; about noon, he took leave of a clergyman and two friends who attended him, and walked out of the great cabin to the quarter-deck, where two files of marines

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action, ſhall withdraw, keep back, or not come into fight, or who ſhall not do his utmoſt, &c. through motives of cowardice, negligence, or diſaffection, ſhall ſuffer death." The court-martial does, in expreſs words, acquit admiral Byng of cowardice and diſaffection, and does not name the word negligence. Admiral Byng does not, as I conceive, fall under the letter or deſcription of the twelfth article of war. It may be ſaid, that negligence is implied, though the word is not mentioned; otherwiſe the court-martial would not have brought his offence under the twelfth article, having acquitted him of cowardice and diſaffection. But it muſt be acknowledged, that the negligence implied, cannot be wilful negligence; for wilful negligence, in admiral Byng's ſituation, muſt have proceeded from either cowardice or diſaffection, and he is expreſsly acquitted of both theſe crimes: beſides theſe crimes, which are implied only, and not named, may indeed juſtify ſuſpicion, and private opinion; but cannot ſatisfy the conſcience in a caſe of blood.

"Admiral Byng's fate was referred to a court-martial; his life and death were left to their opinions. The court-martial condemn him to death, becauſe, as they expreſsly ſay, they were under a neceſſity of doing ſo by reaſon of the letter of the law, the ſeverity of which they complained of, becauſe it admits of no mitigation. The court-martial expreſsly ſay, that for the ſake of their conſciences, as well as in juſtice to the priſoner, they moſt earneſtly recommend him to his majeſty for mercy; it is evident then, that in the opinions and conſciences of the judges, he was not deſerving of death.

"The queſtion then is, ſhall the opinions, or neceſſities, of the court-martial determine Admiral Byng's fate? if it ſhould be the latter, he will be executed contrary to the intentions and meaning of the judges; if the former, his life is not forfeited. His judges declare him not deſerving of death; but, miſtaking either the meaning of the law, or the nature of his offence, they bring him under an article of war, which, according to their own deſcription of his offence, he does not, I conceive, fall under; and then they condemn him to death, becauſe, as they ſay, the law admits of no mitigation. Can a man's life be taken away by ſuch a ſentence?"

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were ready, he immediately kneeled down, tied a handkerchief over his eyes, and dropped another as a ſignal for his executioners to fire, when five of the balls paſs'd through his body, and he dropped down dead in an inſtant. The time of acting this tragedy was not three minutes.

The militia bill was once more introduced into the houſe of commons, by the honourable Mr. George Townſhend, and by the honourable Mr. Charles Townſhend, brothers. The minds of the people were prepared for this laudable and neceſſary act by ſome pamphlets written by perſons of diſtinction, ſhewing the benefit and propriety of a national militia, in a time of war. However, there were many individuals in power, who ſecretly diſliked it; and many who acquieſced in it, are ſaid to have not been hearty in its favour, but none choſe to avow their diſapprobation, it being too popular an object. After divers amendments, the bill paſſed both houſes, and received the royal aſſent. To this ſucceeded a meſſage from the king, acquainting the houſe, that the French were preparing to enter Germany, and invade his electoral dominions, and thoſe of his ally the king of Pruſſia; and that he required ſuch aſſiſtance as would enable him to form an army of obſervation, for the defence of thoſe territories, and alſo for fulfilling his engagements with the king of Pruſſia. This meſſage was complied with; and about the ſame time the parliament addreſſed the king, for all the papers, letters, inſtructions, and orders, any way relative to the affair of Minorca; which were laid before them in ſuch multitudes, that the truth lay buried in heaps of paper; and ſeemed to require the buſineſs of a whole ſeſſion, to inveſtigate the facts; ſome faults were found with the nature of this enquiry; but we ſhall forbear deſcending into the particulars of either it or them, as the whole ended in nothing; the parliament could not be brought to angry votes;

the reſult of the enquiry was as favourable as any body could wiſh.

The next object of public attention, was a body of troops aſſembling in Weſtphalia, under the ſtile of an army of obſervation, to be commanded by the duke of Cumberland, deſigned to obſerve the motions of the French, who were preparing to invade the electorate of Hanover. That unpopular party, who were opponents to Mr. Pitt, aſſerted, that we ought to aſſiſt this army of obſervation with our troops and money: and they ſupported this argument with the following ſentiments; the increaſe of French power, and the influence of France, among the neighbouring nations, they apprehendeded to be the worſt of evils; to prevent this dangerous aggrandizement, it was abſolutely neceſſary to pay a ſtrict regard to the balance of power, and ſeek our particular ſafety and liberty in the general ſafety and liberty of Europe; to keep a cloſe connexion with the continent, both by large ſubſidies, and by aſſiſting with our troops; for this purpoſe, and for ſecuring the preſent eſtabliſhment, a ſtanding army was to be maintained; and that our navy ought only to be employed ſubſerviently, to the views of the continental ſyſtem: they were for preſerving the authority of the government entire, and in order to make government eaſy, they were for ruling men by their intereſts, that is, they were for continuing that——— practice, which had long been in uſe, of procuring a majority in parliament, not forgetting the proper management attending the diſtribution of the numerous lucrative places in the diſpoſal of the crown. But the popular party, at the head of which ſtood the Britiſh patriot, affirmed different ſentiments: they were of the ſame opinions with regard to ſetting bounds to the power of France, but our ſituation they ſaid, dictated a narrower, a more natural, a ſafer, and a leſs expenſive plan of politics. Great-Britain being an iſland,

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its conduct ought not to be the ſame with that of the nations on the continent; our natural ſtrength is maritime, and that ought vigorouſly to be exerted; trade is our natural employment, and they ought mutually to ſupport each other: if we turn our backs to our real intereſts, abandon our natural element, enter that inextricable labyrinth of continental politics, make ourſelves parties in every controverſy, exhauſt our wealth in purchaſing the uſeleſs and precarious friendſhip of every petty prince or ſtate, waſte the blood of our people in all the quarrels that may ariſe on the continent, all this will be ſo far from going the right way to reduce France, that we attack her on the ſtrongeſt ſide, and only deſtroy ourſelves by ſuch ill-judged efforts againſt the enemy: while we preſerve the ſuperiority at ſea, we have nothing to fear from the ſuperiority of France at land, we can always cut the ſinews of her ſtrength by deſtroying her traffic; to fear an invaſion from a power weak in its marine, is the idleſt of all fears; but allowing it were poſſible, a well trained malitia would with zeal be our beſt protection; for a ſtanding army in every ſhape is dangerous to freedom, our government being connected with the liberty of the ſubject needs no aſſiſtance from deſpotic power; neither is parliamentary intereſt neceſſary; a good government will not be oppoſed, and men need no bribes to perſuade them to their duty.

This conflict between an old eſtabliſhed intereſt, and the torrent of popularity laſted ſome time, and the nation was greatly injured by it. It is not proper to trace the ſteps from whence it began, nor to purſue it any further. We hope we have ſaid enough for every intelligent Engliſhman to form an idea of the diſmiſſion of the miniſter, which happened in the courſe of the diſpute. Perhaps the old junto, who immediately ſurrounded the ——— affirmed, that with ſuch obſtinate and ignorant colleagues, the ma-

chine of g—— could not be moved according to ———'s inclination; and by this advantage of the cloſet, over his little court influence, they gained their point. On the fifth of April the king commanded Mr. Pitt to reſign, and four days after Mr. Legge reſigned, and other diſmiſſions were made of courſe. The caſe of the nation was at this time truly deplorable; we were engaged in a war which had hitherto proved unſucceſsful, we began to deſpair of our military virtue, and our public ſpirit ſeemed to be extinguiſhed; faction raged with the utmoſt violence, our operations were ſuſpended, and while we had no miniſtry, there was no plan to follow. The principal perſons in the kingdom were divided by three parties; the firſt were thoſe who had formed their connexions under an old miniſtry, ſome of them had grown to places and power; all of them were diſtinguiſhed by their want of abilities, and popularity, which, in a government like ours is an eſſential thing they needed moſt, but all theſe were almoſt overbalanced by two articles; the monied intereſt they had almoſt entirely, and of parliamentary influence, they had by far the greateſt ſhare. The ſecond party were only powerful in a chaſm, it is true, they ſucceeded to office, but in a ſhort time they were obliged to abandon their poſts; they were more unpopular than the firſt party; they did not even attempt to preſerve appearances neceſſary to popularity; their parliamentary ſtrength was inferior, though repectable, and their abilities were allowed to be great and many. The third party poſſeſſed an unbounded popularity; their great and glorious leader was idolized by the people, who ſaw in him and his friends that ſpirit to vindicate and aſſert our rights, which we had long wanted: theſe patriots had courage and honeſty to purſue the real intereſts of our country in defiance of power, and in contempt of private advantages. They poſſeſſed a ſolid judgment

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and a keen penetration: their eloquence was nervous, bold and admirable; it ſtartled the ſons of corruption, expoſed the iniquitous and baſe, and while it revived, gave vigour to the drooping ſpirits of their injured countrymen; in a word, they were patriots without prejudice, and courtiers without dependance. Their ſtrength in parliament was but trifling, and their influence at court leſs: but they were beloved by the people, who repoſed the moſt perfect confidence in their integrity. The diſintereſtedneſs of their leader was univerſally allowed even by his enemies; and his application was equal to his abilities. The turning theſe men out of employment was ſo far from working their diſgrace as was intended, that it made them, if poſſible, ſhine with more diſtinguiſhed luſtre; the whole nation roſe up as one man to vindicate their conduct, and the freedoms of moſt of the great cities and corporations in Great Britain and Ireland were tranſmitted to Mr. Pitt and Mr. Legge in golden boxes, accompanied with elegant addreſſes, paying the higheſt encomiums on the patriotiſm and virtue of their adminiſtration. No body ſucceeded to Mr. Pitt's office. On the 6th of April lord Mansfield was appointed chancellor of the exchequer, and a new board of admiralty was appointed with the earl of Winchelſea at its head. Three days after theſe alterations were made, the duke of Cumberland was ſent to Hanover to command an army of obſervation, conſiſting of between 30 and 40,000 Hanoverians and Heſſians. This meaſure was taken in conſeqence of the movement of a French army towards the Rhine, compoſed of thoſe troops which they had laſt year aſſembled on the coaſts of Picardy, Brittany and Normandy, with a view of proceeding to the empire, and attack the king of Pruſſia, as they pretended, in conſequence of their treaty with the empreſs queen, and their being guarantees of the treaty of Weſtphalia; though perhaps their real deſign was no

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other than to make a conqueſt of the electorate of Hanover, by which they judged they could oblige the king of England to make ſome conceſſions with regard to America. The name of Hanover was at this time ſo unpopular in England, that the people, after the example of their late patriot miniſter, would not hear of a man or a ſhilling being ſent thither. We muſt own this was carrying the rigid extreme of politics rather too far; Hanover being attacked ſolely on an Engliſh cauſe, we ought to have ſent money to its relief, for which there was at that time men enough to be had in Germany; but the ſending our troops thither, while we are at war with France, is doubly prejudicial to this nation, for, by want of men, we cannot act on the offenſive againſt France as we ought.

The want of a ſettled miniſtry occaſioned the misfortune of our having no fixed plan of politics at the beginning of the year; and our affairs were not likely to go well, when it was uncertain how we ſhould purſue them from ſuch a variety of changing: during the whole ſpring nothing was to be ſeen or heard at court but confuſion and cabal: at length, when we were almoſt ruined by this ſtate of anarchy, and when our generals had taken the field in every quarter, though perhaps not without the fear of being diſgraced by new maſters, the caballing ſeemed to ceaſe, and a reconciliation among the parties began to be effected; perhaps the old junto, who had incurred the cenſure of the people were afraid to puſh matters to an extremity: they now ſaw that effects of popularity which they once deſpiſed, and that the people were not to be led by the noſe implicitly into every meaſure as they had apprehended; addreſſes made their way to the throne, praying, that the diſmiſſed miniſters might be reſtored, for upon them depended the ſecurity and honour of the nation, and the ſucceſs of the war, which had hitherto teemed with

with diſgrace and misfortune: theſe were terrible blows to the old junto's power, and there was no concealing them. On the 29th of June the king reſtored Mr. Pitt to his office, and three days after Mr. Legge was appointed chancellor of the exchequer; the duke of Newcaſtle was placed at the head of a new board of treaſury, lord Anſon firſt lord of the admiralty, and Mr. Fox paymaſter of the forces. This arrangement was productive of the moſt happy conſequences, and whoever adviſed it was a friend to Great Britain. It was impoſſible to exclude from the adminiſtration the late miniſtry: their influence in council and parliament was ſo great, that they could thwart every meaſure in which they were not immediatly concerned or conſulted; therefore this was the beſt ſtep that could be taken, becauſe it was an healing one, and while it ſatisfied the heads of the parties themſelves, it could not fail of being agreeable to their numerous friends; and it had one advantage above all theſe, which was, that it entirely quelled the ſpirit of faction, no one party being able on its ſingle bottom to do any thing; and this coalition, ſo neceſſary in a government like ours, gave univerſal ſatisfaction to all ranks of people. It is not proper to trace out the means through which it was effected; the reader muſt be content with our obſerving, that after the parties had abated ſomething in their hard and rigorous terms, by which all things had been puſhed to an extreme, they conſented to a kind of a capitulation, and the court and the people were reconciled to its terms. There could be no fear of neglect where the vigilance and capacity of Mr. Pitt were to be exerted.

In the mean time the operations in Germany on the ſide of the king of Pruſſia were begun with great alacrity. He defied the ban, and though he knew the ſtate of the confederacy againſt him, he reſolved to force his way into Bohemia, and attack its capital

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on a ſudden. The Auſtrians are ſaid to have had 100,000 men, commanded by prince Charles of Lorrain and count Brown, ready to oppoſe his paſſage. The king divided his army into three bodies, and then began his march. One of theſe diviſions, commanded by the prince of Bevern, defeated a large corps of the enemy at Richenberg. The whole army entered Bohemia without any further oppoſition, and with ſurprizing rapidity puſhed forward to Prague. At a ſmall diſtance from that city lay the Auſtrian army, moſt advantageouſly poſted; their camp was fortified by art and nature in ſuch a manner, that any common general would have deemed it impregnable; but the Pruſſians, who were wedded to danger and difficulties, thought of nothing but victory. On the 6th of May they paſſed the moraſſes, which lay between them and the enemy, climbed ſeveral precipices, and faced the Auſtrian batteries with a reſolution that is hardly credible; the action was general, cloſe and obſtinate, but the efforts of the Pruſſians proved at length ſuperior; the numbers of the ſlain on both ſides was very great; the victors loſt the brave marſhal Schwerin, at the age of eighty two, while he was at the head of his regiment holding a colonel's ſtandard in his hand; and on the ſide of the vanquiſhed marſhal Brown was mortally wounded, which threw the Auſtrian army into ſuch irreparable confuſion, that they precipitately quitted the field, and left their whole camp to the Pruſſians. About 40,000 of the fugitives, with the generals, took refuge in Prague, and the reſt fled towards Moravia. The king of Pruſſia loſt no time in immediately inveſting the city, and cutting off all ſuccours. Many people thought an attack on this place unadviſeable, conſidering the great number of the garriſon, and from the ſame cauſe apprehended its reduction by famine the more certain. The monarch however is ſaid to have been deaf to reaſon, he prepared to bombard the town,

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and on the 29th of May at midnight, upon the ſignal of a rocket, four batteries were opened, which diſcharged every twenty four hours 288 bombs, beſides a vaſt multitude of red hot balls. One would think that the vengeance of man was ſtriving to be more dreadful than the greateſt terrors of nature; for juſt before theſe malicious engines began to pour deſtruction on the unfortunate city, there were felt and heard one of the moſt terrible ſtorms of rain and thunder which had ever been known in the memory of the oldeſt man there. The town was ſoon in flames in every part. The clergy, magiſtrates and burghers ſeeing the city on the point of being reduced to a heap of rubbiſh, ſupplicated the commander in the moſt pathetic language to liſten to terms with the enemy, prince Charles, the commander was deaf to their terms. M. Brown at this time was dead, the chagrin he ſuffered is ſaid to have proved mortal, and not the wound he received in the battle. Twelve thouſand uſeleſs mouths were driven out of Prague, and by the Pruſſians forced back again. Here we will leave this cruel ſcene and turn to the other affairs which were tranſacting in the interim.

In the north all things ſeemed to bear hard upon the king of Pruſſia. The empreſs of Ruſſia, true to her reſentments and engagements, ſent 60,000 men, commanded by M. Apraxin, who invaded Ducal Pruſſia, and took the towns of Memel and Pillau: ſhe alſo equipped a fleet in the Baltic, deſtined to co-operate with the army. The king of Sweden, though allied by blood and inclination to the king of Pruſſia, could not rule the ſenate, who were jealous of his ſentiments, and flattered by the intrigues and ſubſidies of France, which cemented all their old attachment to her; and the duke of Mecklenburg agreed to join the Swediſh army with 6 00 men, when it ſhould be aſſembled. The French army upon the Lower Rhine, conſiſting of 80,000 men,

commanded by M. d'Etrées, an officer of great abilities, ſeized Cleves, Meurs, and Gueldres, while a detachment ſeized Embden, and whatever elſe belonged to the king of Pruſſia in Eaſt Frieſland. The contingents of the empire were aſſembled to execute the ban, and the command of theſe troops was given to the prince of Saxe-Hildbourghauſen. The unwillingneſs with which this army acted, is not altogether unaccountable; many of them feared the houſe of Auſtria, and they were accuſtomed to this fear, by the tyranous influence of that family, which had been in a manner hereditary in the Empire: then would they heartily ſupport a power they dreaded, and almoſt diſliked? probably they would have remained in a ſtate of inactivity, or have deſerted to the king of Pruſſia, had not the French agreed to ſend 25,000 men, under the command of the prince de Soubize, to their aſſiſtance; the French troops were obliged to be poſted between their regiments, in ſuch a manner, as might prevent deſertion, revolt, and all other attempts to diſobey the orders of the commander in chief, otherwiſe this army would have dwindled away to nothing.

While the ſiege of Prague was carrying on with the utmoſt fury, count Daun undertook to turn the fortune of the war, in favour of the houſe of Auſtria; he was a general of extraordinary abilities, he had had a long experience, had ſeen many ſcenes of action, and had roſe to this ſuperior command, not by court favour, but by the ſlow gradation of mere merit, without noiſe, and in univerſal eſteem. He collected the fugitives of the Auſtrian army, he took the garriſons of moſt of the fortified towns in Auſtria, and ſtripped their ramparts of cannon, in order to compoſe a train of artillery: notwithſtanding the affairs of the empreſs queen, ſeemed verging to inevitable ruin, and every thing ſeemed wrought up to a deſperate point, he entered the field

field in Bohemia, and took poſt at Colin, a ſmall diſtance from Prague, from whence he fed the garriſon with hopes of relief, which he apprehended would draw the enemy to a battle. The king of Pruſſia was ſenſible of the advantages derived from that ſituation; he knew Prague would have ſurrendered, if Daun had not appeared, as the garriſon were reduced to the eating of horſe fleſh; therefore, he reſolved without delay, to drive the Auſtrian general from his entrenched poſt. Marſhal Keith, a very able officer in the Pruſſian ſervice, adviſed his maſter to reduce Prague before he gave battle to count Daun, or elſe to raiſe the ſiege entirely, and give him battle with his whole army; but the king of Pruſſia had formed his plan, and he would not alter it; he reſolved to do a great deal of work in a little time, to divide his forces, and to beat count Daun, and take Prague at the ſame time; therefore, he drew 32,000 men from before Prague, though there was an army in it to beſiege, and marched with them to Colin, where he found count Daun with upwards of 60,000 men, in every part intrenched up to his teeth, and defended by one of the moſt formidable trains of artillery he ever ſaw. The monarch, ſo blinded with his uniform ſucceſs, began an attack on theſe impregnable defences, with his little force. The enemy's artillery ſwept them away in great numbers as they attempted to climb the precipices; in vain were the Pruſſians inſpired with a remembrance of their former victories, in vain did they return to the attack, with all the weight of ardor, zeal, and courage; they ſtill recoiled; their impetuoſity was broke every time they advanced, by ſuperior numbers, and ſituation; in a word, they were too few for this deſperate enterprize. Daun never ſtirred from his entrenchments; he knew the king of Pruſſia had not brought troops enough to force them, and he ſaw with pleaſure thoſe men ſacrificed

in thouſands, who had ſtruck terror to the gates of Vienna, becauſe the king of Pruſſia, by ſuch a loſs of his beſt troops, would be leſs formidable during the remainder of the campaign. The king made ſeven furious, but ineffectual attacks, upon the enemies entrenchments; he himſelf, at the head of his cavalry made a moſt vigorous and intrepid charge; but that, like the reſt, proving unſucceſsful, he determined to draw off, and called aloud to the prince of Bevern: "Nous ferrons mieux un autre fois." * They effected a tolerable retreat to Prague, as Daun did not venture to purſue them. The king joined his troops under general Keith, whom he had left before the city, and prepared to raiſe the ſiege directly; he had induſtriouſly concealed his loſs in the battle; but this meaſure ſufficiently proves it muſt have been very great, beſides the innumerable ill conſequences of a defeat, ſuch as wounding the ſpirit of the troops, deſertions, &c. He raiſed the ſiege of Prague that night, and began his march for Saxony with the utmoſt ſpeed; as ſoon as the impriſoned Auſtrians diſcovered the evacuation, they ſallied out, but it was too late to do him any material damage. Count Daun joined them, and they received him with all the tranſport due to a deliverer; they, in conjunction watched the motions of the Pruſſian monarch, who being inferior to them in numbers, continued to retire, and began to act upon a defenſive plan.

The battle of Colin, in a few weeks, entirely changed the face of affairs in Germany. The enemies

* "We will do better another time." Hence it is evident, he took the blame of this miſcarriage upon himſelf; and indeed he only was to blame. It is true, he had done a great deal with a little; but he apprehended, that with a little he could do all; and upon this erroneous principle he fought the battle of Colin, on the 18th day of June: a day, which throughout the Auſtrian dominions, is annually remembered by a ſolemn thankſgiving.

mies of the king of Pruſſia, were animated by the ſucceſs of their allies, and now began to pour upon him on all ſides. The ſavage Ruſſians began to lay waſte, with the moſt horrid acts of barbarity, the country they had entered; their cruelties reflect ſuch infamy on their arms, that a hundred victories more famous than thoſe of Peter the Great, will not be enough to wipe it off; nor were they during this campaign leſs cowardly than cruel; they were afraid to fairly oppoſe a handful of Pruſſians, commanded by an officer of reputation, aſſembled to watch and harraſs their motions. When the vile and horrid ravages of the enemy called aloud for vengeance, when the country was totally deſolated to a conſiderable diſtance, by fire and ſword, the Pruſſians could no longer forbear attempting to reſtrain ſuch inhuman havock; accordingly marſhal Lehwald, who commanded the Pruſſian troops in this country, was directed by the king, to give battle to the enemy; who were no ſooner adviſed of this intention, than they began to intrench themſelves with the utmoſt ſtrength and aſſiduity; the Pruſſians, who did not exceed 30,000 men, found them at a place called Norkitten, and early in the morning, on the 30th of Auguſt, they attacked theſe defences with their uſual vigour; the king of Sweden's brother at the head of the Pruſſian dragoons, found means to attack the Ruſſian cavalry, and he almoſt routed them; marſhal Lehwald, after a conſiderable loſs, forced the enemy from the firſt intrenchment, but finding there was a ſecond, defended by at leaſt two hundred pieces of cannon, he thought it would be imprudent to attempt that with ſuch a handful of men, and therefore determined to draw off, for which the King of Pruſſia never forgave him; he retreated to his former camp at Vehlau, without ſuffering the leaſt moleſtation; the Ruſſians remained in theirs at Norkitten, and next day, there was little

or no marks of a battle having been fought there, except a few of the ſlain which were unburied. The armies continued in this ſtate of inactivity till the 13th of September, when the Ruſſians finding it impoſſible, by reaſon of their own ravages, to ſubſiſt in the country any longer, began a ſudden and ſpeedy retreat out of the Pruſſian territories, to the great ſurprize, of not only the Pruſſians, but of every court in Europe; even that of Peterſburgh diſavowed any knowledge of this unexpected motion: but in order to do juſtice to their allies, who complained of great injuries by this precipitate ſtep, marſhal Apraxin was put under an arreſt, and directed to be conveyed as a priſoner to Peterſburgh; but to the great diſappointment of thoſe, who expected that his trial would unveil this myſterious affair, he was taken ill at Narva, and there died of an apoplexy. The rapidity with which the Ruſſians marched, hindered marſhal Lehwald from harraſſing their retreat; therefore he turned his arms againſt the Swedes, who were augmented to 25,000 men, under the command of general Hamilton, and had taken ſeveral towns in the hither Pomerania. They retired on his approach, and he ſeized all the places which they had conquered, and at length drove them to Stralſund, which ſo leſſened their numbers by fatigue, hunger, and deſertion, that when they arrived thither, at the concluſion of the campaign, their army did not amount to half its original number. The Pruſſians being now in poſſeſſion of all Pomerania, the dutchy of Mecklenburgh, which was the ally of Sweden, of courſe became expoſed to their fury; the moſt ſevere exactions were made, and the moſt wanton barbarities committed; the Pruſſians by their behaviour to the poor Mecklenburghers, ſeemed to revenge the cruelties of the Ruſſians; Lehwald would have prevented theſe miſeries, had he not perceived the diſ-

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pleaſure of his maſter, which occaſioned him to beg leave to reſign, and his requeſt being granted, he quitted the ſervice with ſilent indignation.

The unweildy French army, incumbered with a vaſt quantity of baggage and uſeleſs mouths, as French armies always are, made for ſome time but a ſlow progreſs; it is true, they found many difficulties in marching over the rough, diſmal and barren deſarts, which lie between the Rhine and the Weſer, but at length they approached this latter river, having obliged the duke of Cumberland to retreat as they advanced. His royal highneſs paſſed the river, and entered Hanover, which it was apprehended he could now defend, as the French army could not paſs the Weſer, which defends Hanover from theſe foreign attacks, without manifeſtly expoſing themſelves to his mercy; but from ſome unaccountable fatality, the French paſſed the Weſer, in the night between the tenth and eleventh of July, without the loſs of a ſingle man. The duke of Cumberland retired to the village of Haſtenbeck a few miles from Hamelin, to which place the marſhal d'Etrees followed him. His royal Highneſs thought he had choſen ſo excellent a ſituation, that the French general could not act againſt him with his whole force; but he was deceived; M. d'Etrées had ſuperior abilities; he canonaded the allies all day on the 25th, and threatened to attack their right, left and centre at the ſame time. On the 26th at daylight, the engagement began, which was maintained on the ſide of the allies with great bravery for ſeveral hours; but the French general, with ſuperior numbers and ſkill, obliged them to abandon the field with the loſs of about 1500 men. His own army ſuffered nearly the ſame, but he ſoon made them ample amends by taking the town of Hamelin, where he found a great number of braſs cannon and mortars, and a vaſt deal of equipage belonging to the allied army. At this time,

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the French nation laboured under the ſame diſadvantage which has often happened in England; the ſervants of the crown were in general, ſuch as were obnoxious to the people; and if an honeſt man happened to be employed by theſe mercenaries, and did not turn villain as well as they, he was ſure not to continue long in employ. How far this was d'Etrees's caſe, we do not pretend to affirm; it is certain that before he fought the battle of Haſtenbeck, the marchioneſs de Pompadour, who entirely influenced the French councils, got him recalled; and the duke de Richelieu, who had been the principal inſtrument of her elevation, and perhaps excelled all the world in the mean and wicked arts of a profeſſed courtier, to ſucceed him. Accordingly M. d' Etrées quitted the army when he was on the point of finiſhing his conqueſts, and marſhal Richelieu took the command. The duke of Cumberland, inſtead of retreating directly to Magdebourg, where he might either have been joined or have been of moſt ſeaſonable aſſiſtance to the king of Pruſſia, retired to Stade, where by the beginning of September, he was ſo cooped up with water on his flanks and rear, and the French in his front, that he was unable by his ſituation to retire, or by his ſtrength to advance; therefore, he was reduced to the neceſſity of ſigning a convention with the French general, framed under the mediation of the king of Denmark; whereby his whole army, conſiſting of 38,000 men, were obliged to lay down their arms and diſperſe themſelves. Soon after which his royal highneſs returned to London, where finding his conduct had not given ſatisfaction, he threw up all the places he held under the crown, and retired to Windſor. In the mean time, the French traverſed the electorate of Hanover, and exacted the moſt rigorous contributions in every part; they plundered the royal palaces, and committed many barbarities.

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The army of the empire had, by this time, advanced into Saxony, and ſummoned the city of Leipſic. The king of Pruſſia, who had ſeveral times offered battle, to the grand Auſtrian army, which was more than double his number, but could never bring them to an action, now reſolved to attack this army; and after making ſeveral feint motions, he, notwithſtanding their endeavours to avoid him, brought his army oppoſite to them on the 4th of Nov. near the village of Roſbach, on the weſt ſide of the Sala, and about ten miles ſouth from Halle in Upper Saxony, and there was a cannonade all day. The Pruſſians were not in the whole 25,000 men, and greatly fatigued by a conſiderable number of forced marches. The French troops, under the command of the prince de Soubiſe, are ſaid to exceed 34,000, and the Imperialiſts, under the prince of Saxe-Hilbourghauſen 20,000, all in health and vigour, except among the latter there were blended ſome recruits, who were raw and undiſciplined, and others not well affected to the ſervice. During the night, the French and Imperial generals took a reſolution to give battle to the Pruſſian monarch; and on the 5th, at nine in the morning, they began to make the neceſſary preparations. The king, who perceived their intentions, made ready to give them a proper reception; he likewiſe harangued his ſoldiers by way of inſpiring them with emulation, and promiſed them that their pay ſhould be double from that time till they went into winter quarters. The French horſe came on with great ſpirit, and for a little while fought bravely, but they could not withſtand the Pruſſians, who acted with amazing ardor; they ſeverely repulſed, and afterwards totally routed this body of cavalry; the reſt of the enemy's combatants ſhared the ſame fate: the impetuoſity of the Pruſſians was like a torrent that overwhelmed them with deſtruction: the Imperial infantry made but a

ſmall reſiſtance, the whole army was ſeized with a panic when they perceived the phrenzy of the Pruſſians, and precipitately quitted the field of battle; they left behind them about 3000 men ſlain and 6000 priſoners, 63 pieces of cannon and ſome colours; the loſs of the Pruſſians was not 500 men; the fugitives were purſued until dark night, which alone preſerved them from entire ruin.* The victory was ſo complete that it hardly wanted to be improved; the condition of the enemy was ſuch that they were totally incapable of action; therefore the King of Pruſſia began to turn his arms and march directly to Sileſia, where the ſituation of his affairs demanded his preſence with the utmoſt haſte: he had left Sileſia defended by

* This victory was of the utmoſt conſequence to the king of Pruſſia; for a little before he fought it, the whole ſtate of his affairs ſeemed verging to utter ruin, and afterwards they began to put on a different face, and to emerge to better fortune, owing entirely to the importance of this victory; he had been inveſted on the north by Swedes and Ruſſians, on the eaſt and part of the ſouth by the Auſtrians, and on the weſt and ſouth, by the French and the army of the Empire; and ſuch was the vicinity of thoſe powerful armies, which did not in the whole amount to leſs than 360,000 men, that they were all of them at one time hovering on the ſkirts of his dominions, and ſome of them had actually penetrated ſo far, that their detached parties laid his capital under contributions. In this ſituation, hemmed in on every ſide by the moſt formidable league the world had ever ſeen, ſome might have thought it prudent if he had offered to ſubmit; but will poſterity think his numerous enemies deſerve any honour if they had compelled him to it? Surrounded as he was, and obliged to make head againſt them all, it is not to be wondered at, that when he went through Leipſic to fight the army of the empire, he was, by continual fatigue, worn away to a ſkeleton: he could bring no other army to an action, and conſidering the inferiority of his numbers and the unwillingneſs of the Imperialiſts, there were none he was more likely to defeat. By this battle he got rid of the army of the empire on one ſide, and checked the progreſs of Marſhal Richlieu on the other, who was advancing from Hanover towards Magdeburgh; the Ruſſians had retired before, and the Swedes were at this time beſieged in Stralſund, ſo that of his enemies who appeared ſo formidable in Auguſt, there were only Auſtrians left.

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the Prince of Bevern with only 26,000 men, who intrenched himſelf under the walls of Breſlau with the greateſt ſtrength, forming what is called an impregnable camp, in which, by the King's orders, he was to wait the iſſue of events.

The Auſtrians, as ſoon as they heard he was gone in queſt of the army of the empire, reſolved to wreſt Sileſia out of his hands by ſome bold ſtroke, which they apprehended his abſence would afford them opportunity to purſue without interruption. Accordingly on the 27th, general Nadaſti, a brave, vigilant, and indefatigable officer, laid ſiege to Schweidnitz, and he carried on the operation with ſuch ſpirit and intrepidity, that though the garriſon conſiſted of 4000 men, he forced them by his repeated attacks to ſurrender priſoners of war on the 11th of November; he undertook this enterprize with principally Bavarian troops, and he was no way ſparing of their lives. It was juſt after this conqueſt that the Auſtrians were informed of the King of Pruſſia's ſucceſs at Roſbach, upon which they apprehended he would be with them as ſoon as poſſible, therefore they found it neceſſary to make uſe of the interim to the beſt advantage whatever it coſt; the preſent exigencies required vigorous meaſures. In this opnion they united their force and advanced to the intrenchments of the Prince of Bevern, where they overlooked the danger, by exaggerating the importance in forcing them; they did not trouble their heads about the number of cannon which on every ſide defended his inacceſſible camp; they conſidered that by forcing him they ſhould get Breſlau, the capital of Sileſia, but did not reflect on the number of men it would coſt, and of courſe weaken their ſtrength ſo neceſſary to keep Sileſia. On the 22d. of November they advanced up to the intrenchments, and about noon made two violent and unſucceſsful aſſaults; but the third, more intrepid than the former, forced the Pruſſians from the exterior lines, who thereupon retreated to others which they had made

interior. The Auſtrians perceiving this, and conſidering the prodigality of their ſlaughter all at once ceaſed the attack; during this ſuſpenſion, the Pruſſians were ſeized with a chimera, apprehending their dernier intrenchments would be forced in the night, and therefore while the Auſtrian troops ſtood infatuated with ſurpriſe at having, as they thought, their work to do over again, the Pruſſians made uſe of that opportunity to abandon their intrenchments and retreat over the Oder, except a few that threw themſelves into Breſlau. The Auſtrian generals knew nothing of this ſudden motion and were aſtoniſhed when they found this ſtrong hold evacuated. It is generally imagined the Prince of Bevern was aſhamed to act in this injudicious manner, and was afraid to ſee the King of Pruſſia, more eſpecially as his majeſty had ſent him orders not to quit the lines on any account for that he certainly ſhould be with him by December; and therefore in the morning of the 24th, he went to reconnoitre the enemy without eſcort, attended only by a groom, and was taken priſoner by a party of the enemy's Croats. This circumſtance was conſtrued into a premeditated deſign, becauſe it cannot be ſuppoſed that a man of his rank, a prince, a commander in chief, ſhould undertake the dangerous taſk of reconnoitring attended by only one man, and that but a groom, ſuppoſing he had judged it neceſſary to ſee things with his own eyes. The loſs of the Auſtrians in this affair was not leſs than the amount of the whole Pruſſian force; but that of the Pruſſians, as they were never put into confuſion did not exceed 2800 men. The Auſtrians acknowledged that ſuch another dear bought victory would deſtroy their whole army. On the 25th they ſummoned Breſlau, and the garriſon ſurrendered on condition of not ſerving againſt the Auſtrians or their allies for two years. The King, as ſoon as he heard of theſe diſaſters, redoubled his efforts of ſpeed towards Sileſia; he reached

ed Parchwitz, near Breſlau, on the 2d of December, and joined his troops late commanded by the Prince of Bevern. The Auſtrians, who occupied the ſtrong camp of the Pruſſians, left it as ſoon as they heard the King was advancing to give them battle, which they reſolved to accept, and therefore began their march to meet him; but they halted at the village of Leuthen near Liſſa, and though they did not intrench themſelves, they felled great quantities of wood and ſcattered them in their front, in order to make it impoſſible for the Pruſſians to act with regularity. On the 5th of December the king of Pruſſia came up to their camp, which was defended by a numerous artillery placed on ſeveral very advantageous eminences. He attacked the advanced corps of the Auſtrians and cut them to pieces, alſo another corps who intended to take him in flank. The armies now came in ſight of each other, and an obſtinate and bloody conflict began; the Pruſſian artillery made terrible havock; it happened to be placed in ſuch a ſituation as to take the enemy in flank, and it mowed them down in ſcores, the King's infantry behaved with the utmoſt intrepidity and his cavalry with the moſt aſtoniſhing fury. The Auſtrians made a brave reſiſtance, but they were obliged to give way; yet for ſome time they diſputed the ground inch by inch; at length, finding they could not withſtand the impetuoſity of the Pruſſians, they fell into confuſion, and fled from the field in all the agonies of madneſs and deſpair; the officers ran one way and the private men another; the commanders never thought of rallying the troops but of ſaving themſelves. The King purſued them to Liſſa, 6000 Auſtrians were ſlain, 15000 made priſoners, and 200 pieces of cannon were taken. Before the battle, the Auſtrian army is ſaid to have exceeded 70,000 men, but that of the Pruſſians did not amount to 40,000 men, who were greatly fatigued by a forced march of 200 miles. Notwithſtanding the

rigour of the ſeaſon was ſet in, the King of Pruſſia inveſted Breſlau, though defended by a garriſon of 13,000 men, and compelled it to ſurrender by the 29th of December; the garriſon were made priſoners of war. The King having reconquered all Sileſia, except Schweidnitz, he penetrated before the end of the year into the Auſtrian diviſion, and reduced ſeveral towns there, which ſo augmented the number of his priſoners, that before New-year's-day they by far exceeded the number of his whole army.

The king of Pruſſia's victory at Roſbach, not only prevented the French from purſuing their deſign of entering Magdebourg, but alſo revived the ſpirits of the Hanoverians and Heſſians, and encouraged them to reſume their arms. Richlieu, the French general, had behaved in the moſt cruel and infamous manner in many places; where it was impoſſible to raiſe the contributions demanded, the ſoldiers were allowed to plunder, with their uſual methods of barbarity, and attempts had been made to take away the arms from the Hanoverian and Heſſian troops. Theſe open violations of the convention, unbound the hands of their enemies, and as ſoon as the king of Pruſſia had gained the battle of Roſbach, it was reſolved to re-aſſemble the allied army; and the king of Pruſſia for this purpoſe, furniſhed a general, which was prince Ferdinand of Brunſwick, brother to the duke of Brunſwick, and an officer in his own army. The firſt operation which they undertook, was the reduction of the town and caſtle of Harbourg; the town was eaſily maſtered, but the caſtle ſuſtained a a vigorous ſiege; at length it ſurrendered.

The Britiſh affairs in America this year ſtill teemed with misfortunes and diſgrace, not a little owing to our late political diviſions, unſteadineſs and languor; the attack on Crown-point, which had been the principal object in the beginning, was now laid aſide; the French were entire maſters of all the Lakes, and had nothing

nothing to prevent their collecting the Indians together againſt us: our fears did more in behalf of the French, than the French could have done for themſelves: we abandoned the Iroquois, who were once our allies, and might have been preſerved, and the whole country to the enemy, and thus without one native in alliance, our whole frontiers were expoſed to their incurſions. Inſtead of attacking Crown-point it was judged of more importance to go againſt Louiſbourgh; accordingly, lord Loudon aſſembled the troops under his command at Halifax in Nova-Scotia; he found here admiral Holborn juſt arrived from Europe with ſeventeen ſhips of the line and a number of troops, which with thoſe his lordſhip had brought, amounted in the whole to above 11000 men; but from ſome unaccountable cauſe, it was July when they arrived at Halifax, and what is ſtill more myſterious, they ſpent a month in holding of councils, and at laſt came to a reſolution that it was too late to do any thing. The French did not act upon a ſupine negligent and dilatory plan; at the beginning of the year they were apprized of our deſigns and they ſent a ſtrong ſquadron to Louiſbourg, which reached the harbour before it was well free of the ice; in a little time they ſent two other ſtrong ſquadrons with a large ſupply of troops, ammunition, proviſions, &c. ſo that the troops, natives and Indians bearing arms, at the time it was going to be attacked, did not amount to leſs than 10,000 men, and the fleet in the harbour was ſuperior to admiral Holborn's. When the reſolution was taken to defer the attack, lord Loudon with the troops returned to New-York, and admiral Holborn went to cruize at the mouth of Louiſbourgh harbour; but what end this was to anſwer we ſhall not pretend to diſcover; nobody ſurely can imagine that the French admiral, who had no occaſion to fight in order to protect Louiſbourg, would come out and bring on an unneceſſary

ceſſary battle: however, the Britiſh ſquadron continued on this ſtation until the 25th of September, when a moſt terrible ſtorm aroſe and diſperſed them different ways, wrecked one, diſmaſted eleven, and ſo ſhattered the reſt, that many found great difficulty in getting home. No ſooner was lord Loudon gone on the Louiſbourgh expedition, than M. de Montcalm collected the French forces together and reſolved to attack fort Wm. Henry, which being ſituated near Lake-George, defended part of our frontiers; he brought 8000 men with a numerous artillery before the place; the garriſon conſiſted of 2500 men, commanded by col. Monro; and general Webb with 4000 men lay at no great diſtance from the fort, but he was an indifferent ſpectator of Montcalm's operations. The French officer proſecuted the ſiege with vigour, and Monro bravely defended the place, until his ammunition was ſpent, and many of his guns were burſt; nay, he even perſiſted in the honourable diſcharge of his important truſt after prudence dictated he ought to ſurrender, hoping that general Webb, though ſlow, would at length either oblige the enemy to raiſe the ſiege, or force ſome ammunition into the place; but diſappointed in theſe hopes, compelled by neceſſity, and ordered by a letter from the general, which Montcalm ſent into the fort, he ſurrendered on the 9th day of Auguſt, after a ſiege of ſix days. By the capitulation, the garriſon were not to ſerve for eighteen months: when they marched out of the fort the French Indians maſſacred ſeveral of them and committed many horrid barbarities, under the countenance of the French general; but what is more ſurpriſing, that 2000 men, with arms in their hands, permitted the ſavages to exerciſe their wanton cruelties unmoleſted; the fort was demoliſhed, and Montcalm returned to Canada. Thus we with a prodigious ſuperiority in America this year, did nothing; was it not owing to the incapacity

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and puſillanimity of the foul dregs of a former M———?

In Aſia we had better ſucceſs; but this muſt be entirely attributed to the vigilance, prudence and courage of ſome good officers, who were at too great a diſtance to receive orders from thoſe unſteady men, who ſtill preſerved great influence and formed irreſolute C———s. The company's diſputes with the Nabob of Bengal, the riſe of which we have already explained, were terminated to their great advantage by Admiral Watſon and Col. Clive. After they had reduced the fort of Buſbudgia, they proceeded to Hughley, up the Ganges, and reduced that alſo, becauſe the Nabob refuſed to come to terms, which they offered to him in the moſt polite and civil manner at the cloſe of the laſt year; but he was too haughty to think of treating, and yet he was afraid of the Britiſh power. To conceal his terror he made a motion with his army towards Calcutta, upon which colonel Clive, determined to give him battle in his camp, and on the 5th of February he forced the Nabob from all his poſts, though defended by between 40 and 50,000 men. This riſk, ſeconded by a letter from admiral Watſon, intimating that this was a ſpecimen only of what the Britiſh arms, when provoked, could perform, perfectly anſwered the intention of bringing about a pacification, for in four days a treaty of peace was ſigned, by which the Engliſh Eaſt-India company were eſtabliſhed in all their former privileges, an immunity for all taxes was granted, and a reſtitution promiſed for all that the trade had ſuffered in the taking of Calcutta. As this treaty was in a manner extorted from him, he never intended to fulfil the conditions; moreover, his principal counſellors were in the intereſt of the French, who were continually gratifying them with preſents, hoping by that means to embarraſs the Engliſh. The day after this treaty was ſigned, admiral Watſon

and col. Clive received advice that war had been declared in Europe between the Engliſh and French: this of courſe opened a new ſcene, and theſe brave officers, who had the honour and intereſt of their country at heart, immediately reſolved on attacking the French fort of Chandenagore, ſituated higher up the river than Calcutta. On the 24th of March, after a ſiege of four days, this place was reduced, though the ſtrongeſt and principal ſettlement the French had in Bengal; 183 pieces of cannon were found in it, and 500 Europeans and 700 Blacks were made priſoners. There being no longer any thing to apprehend from the French power in this part, it fell under conſideration how they ſhould act with regard to the Nabob, who had from time to time, upon frivolous pretences deferred to execute the articles of the treaty, he was every day more inconſtant and inſolent. Some time was taken up in thoſe deliberations; they were afraid to precipitate war with him, leſt it ſhould be fatal in its conſequences; and yet his conduct juſtified ſuch a ſtep. But in the midſt of theſe perplexities, a ray of hope unexpectedly appeared. The ſeverity and fickle diſpoſition of the Nabob, ſpread a terror among thoſe about him; they did not think themſelves ſafe in the power of ſuch a man, and they began to think of depriving him of his power becauſe he abuſed it. Among theſe was one of great intereſt and authority, named Laitty; he put himſelf at the head of this conſpiracy, and communicated their deſigns to the Engliſh; but Meer Jaffier Aly Cawn, a general of the Nabob's army, joining the number, it was thought proper to conclude a treaty with theſe conſpirators, upon the baſis of the former with the Nabob, before the Engliſh took the field for their aſſiſtance, and in their own juſtification and defence; for the Engliſh, by theſe conſpirators, had certain knowledge that the Nabob ſhortly intended to attack them.

them. In this treaty, nothing was omitted that might put the company's affairs for the future upon a firm and ſtable eſtabliſhment; and it was alſo agreed that Meer Jaffier ſhould be appointed Nabob. Every thing being now ready, colonel Clive began his march to Plaiſſy on the Ganges, and took poſt on a very advantageous ground. On the 22d of June, the Nabob's army approached and gave him battle with near 40,000 men and 40 pieces of cannon; but half of the troops, who were under the command of Jaffier Aly Cawn and other conſpirators, were inactive. The Nabob knew not how to inveſt col. Clive's intrenchments; and the colonel taking the advantage of his ignorance, totally defeated him with very little loſs among his own troops. Meer Jaffier now declared himſelf, and congratulated Mr. Clive on his victory. The Nabob fled to Muxadavad, his capital, with a few of his attendants who continued faithful. Meer Jaffier entered the city while it was in conſternation by the advice of Mr. Clive, and was by this gallant officer placed in the ancient ſeat of the Nabobs, where he received the homage of all ranks of people. The depoſed Nabob wandered about an unfortunate fugitive, purſued by his enemies, in the utmoſt diſtreſs, with hardly cloaths to his back, and till worn out with hunger and fatigue; he at length took refuge in the houſe of a man whoſe ears he had cauſed to be cut off in one of the tranſports of his paſſion; this perſon delivered him up to his purſuers, and Jaffier Aly Cawn's ſon ordered him to be put to death. In about thirteen days this great revolution was accompliſhed, with a ſmall force and very little loſs, and the India company gained ſuch a number of valuable advantages as exceeded the expectation of the moſt ſanguine wiſh.

At home our attention was ſo much taken up with the Germanic warfare, that a vaſt and powerful fleet was equipped to be employed ſubſervient to its capricious ſyſtem; a body of troops, amounting to 9000 men,

under the command of Sir John Mordaunt, were put on board it. The deſtination was kept a profound ſecret; and whilſt it exerciſed the penetration of all the politicians in Europe, it filled France with the moſt ſerious alarms. The deſign was to make a diverſion in favour of the duke of Cumberland, by drawing a part of the French army from Weſtphalia and Hanover, to the defence of their own coaſt. After much time ſpent in making preparations, and ſeveral blundering delays, the fleet, under the command of admiral Hawke, ſailed on the eighth of September, the day on which the convention of Cloſter-Seven was ſigned. On the 21ſt the fleet appeared before Rochfort, and it was now known that they intended to attack it; but as the officers had laid down no plan to be followed in this enterprize, ſome time was taken up in debating and framing one; at length it was reſolved to ſecure the little iſland of Aix, ſituated in the mouth of the river Charente, leading up to Rochfort; from whence they apprehended there might be ſome obſtruction to their landing; captain Howe in the Magninime, reduced the iſland on the 23d. Still the officers kept debating and conſuming time in pernicious deliberations. Sir Edward Hawke, propoſed laying a ſixty gun ſhip againſt fort Fouras, which it was thought would ſecure the landing of the troops; but admiral Knowles, who ſounded the coaſt, declared there was no channel by which even a bomb-ketch could approach it; and the military officers would not attack it by land, though it was the weakeſt on that ſide, and there were two landing places at a ſmall diſtance from it. Thus was time ſuffered to elapſe and nothing done, while the fleet lay within ſight of the enemy, and of courſe ſo effectually alarmed them as to make them to provide every thing as faſt as poſſible for their defence. On the 28th, it was reſolved to land the troops that night, in order to attack the forts on the Charente. The troops were

were in the boats at the appointed time, and every thing was ready, but reſolution in the———s; that alone was wanting. They now took into conſideration the badneſs of the coaſt, the danger of landing, the time they had given the enemy to put every place in a poſture of defence; and above all, two encampments of militia, which they had deſcried the day before; which force had been collected ſince they appeared off the coaſt, for there were no ſuch thing at firſt; therefore they reſolved to defer the landing until morning, and the troops were ordered back to their reſpective ſhips. On the 30th a reſolution was taken to return to England, without doing any thing further; and on the ſixth of October, the fleet arrived at St. Helen's. When this armament departed from England, it carried ſuch an air of conqueſt, that its return without effecting any thing but the demolition of the little fort at Aix, appeared ſo much below the conception of the people, that they compared it to the mountain in labour which brought forth a mouſe; nothing could exceed the general diſcontent: many of the officers blamed the miniſters in the plan of the expedition; the miniſters, and with them the public voice, exclaimed againſt the execution. The cauſe of its failure, was ordered to be ſearched into by a *board of enquiry*; who ſeemed to cenſure the commander of the land forces; but a court-martial acquitted him. This expedition coſt the nation near a million of money; the whole ſummer was employed in making preparations for it; and at laſt it only ſerved to embitter our diſſentions, without affording the leaſt favour to that cauſe for which it was undertaken. *

On

* The beginning of this year was marked by an event that ſurpriſed all Europe; an attempt was made to aſſaſſinate the French king, while he was ſtepping into his coach at Verſailles, by

On the firſt of December the parliament met, and unanimouſly voted 60,000 men for the ſea ſervice, and 54,000 men for the land ſervice of Great-Britain. The ſupplies amounted to the aſtoniſhing ſum of 10,486,457l. A great part of this treaſure was liberally beſtowed upon our German allies, whom we generouſly paid for fighting their *own* battle, particularly 1,861,897l. expreſly aſſigned for the ſupport of our continental mercenaries: this latter ſum exceeded the whole revenue of Charles II. At this time the partizans of the court were at great pains to inculcate a belief that the war in Germany was ſupported as a neceſſary diverſion in favour of our own war in America, which while it employed the French power in Germany, prevented its being ſent to their plantations, or making invaſions on this iſland. The abſurdity of this notion will appear to thoſe who conſider that the ports of France were blocked up by the Britiſh navy, that Great-Britain was ſole miſtreſs of the ſea, and that the French commerce was extinguiſhed, and their mariners in Britiſh priſons; how then could they ſend reinforcements to their diſtant ſettlements? Will not thoſe who conſider this ſay, had but half that money which was annually ingulphed in Germany, been expended in *vigorouſly exerting* our naval ſtrength, the French would not have had, at the concluſion of the reign, one ſingle ſettlement out of Europe. But what ſort of a diverſion is this, which

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by one Damien, an obſcure fanatic, who, mingling among the king's attendants, ſtabbed him on the right ſide, between the fourth and fifth ribs, with a knife, which taking an oblique direction miſſed the vital parts. He was ſecured, and the moſt excruciating torments were applied, in order to extort from him a confeſſion of reaſons that induced him to commit this horrid attempt; but all that could be done, diſcovered nothing, and he died a remarkable inſtance of inſanity. This year was likewiſe diſtinguiſhed in France, by a change in the miniſtry, by which the duke de Belleiſle, was appointed ſecretary at war.

obliges

obliges us to raiſe and hire freſh troops, while France is employing only its own ſtanding army to repel it? to ſend fewer troops and horſes at double the expence, to act againſt a greater number of French? It is a diverſion of Engliſh treaſures, not of French troops. By a diverſion every body underſtands, the turning of the war from one part, where one would not have it go, to another part where we have leſs to fear from it: but we have moſt to fear from Germany, becauſe it deſtroys our men and money. The French have no employ for their ſtanding army except in Germany: they may, if they pleaſe, march them down to their coaſt, but they have not ſhips to tranſport them any where; and if they had, our fleets are continually at hand to intercept them. However, in order to make this German war popular, our underſtandings were inſulted with a tale, that the Proteſtant religion was in danger; the importance of Germany and our allies were rung like changes in our ears: none were allowed to exerciſe their own reaſon; they were to be dazzled with the neceſſity for defending Hanover, and ſupporting the king of Pruſſia *. In a little time this mighty work was brought about; the people of this nation diſcovered ſuch an affection for their German friends, that they were ready to aſſiſt them with their lives and for-

* They were taught to conſider this monarch, as the hero of the age, and the champion of Proteſtantiſm; nay, even to look upon him as their ſecond king and defender of faith, to drink his health as cordially as if they had been born at Berlin, and to make the moſt extravagant and riotous rejoicings on his birth-day; to make Pruſſian caps for their ladies to look fine in, and Pruſſian purl for the mob to get drunk with. Now, will it be believed that this is the man, who in all his actions, has ſhewn a neglect of all moral obligation, and in his writings a contempt of every religious principle; who has in his court ſpoke of king George II. in the moſt diſreſpectful terms, and penned memorials which were appeals to the people againſt our government?

tunes. While this vein ſubſiſted, it was, that the ſecond treaty, ſigned on the 11th of April 1758, was made with the king of Pruſſia, ſtipulating that we ſhould pay him annually 670,000l. which was to be employed for the good of the common cauſe. What this common cauſe is, he is left at liberty to interpret for his own convenience. The common cauſe of two parties who have no common enemy, is hard to be determined. We are not at war with the houſe of Auſtria, nor is he heartily with France. This treaty does not order that he ſhall ſend one man to our aſſiſtance; it only directs, that he ſhall make uſe of the money in raiſing troops and ſtrengthening himſelf: what is this but paying him for fighting his own battles? but giving our money becauſe he wants it? As this treaty was approved by parliament, and the money granted to make good the engagement, we ſhall conſider it as an event ſufficient to eclipſe every other during the ſeſſion, which ended on the 9th of June 1758.

During the winter, the king of Pruſſia levied in Saxony the moſt heavy contributions; the unfortunate city of Leipſic, becauſe it was unable to pay theſe cruel exactions, was puniſhed with military execution. It is a pain to recount his barbarities; it is ſufficient to ſay that every act that could be deviſed to diſtreſs the inhabitants was executed. Mecklenburgh was plundered, and its duke obliged to fly to Lubeck. The eſtabliſhed faith of both theſe States is proteſtantiſm, and both of them have diſtinguiſhed themſelves in its defence: how then is this conduct to be reconciled to his character, aſſuming the title of protector of the proteſtant religion? As ſoon as the ſeaſon would permit, he undertook the ſiege of Schweidnitz, and on the 16th of April obliged it to ſurrender. He was now once more in poſſeſſion of all Sileſia. His next conſideration was to act offenſively in the Auſtrain territories. Count Daun, with the Auſtrian

Auſtrian army re-aſſembled and recruited at this time was encamped at Koningſgratz, in Bohemia. His Pruſſian majeſty made ſeveral feints, in order to deceive the Auſtrian general, whom at length he filled with an idea that he intended to come and give him battle, upon which Daun began to entrench himſelf: in the interim the king of Pruſſia made a moſt rapid march into Moravia, and had laid ſiege to Olmutz, the capital, before Daun had heard any thing further of him. It happened that M. Marſhal was poſted in Moravia with 12,000 men, and that he had juſt time enough to throw himſelf into the place, before the king of Pruſſia inveſted it, otherwiſe that monarch would have taken it by eſcalade. The ſiege was opened on the 27th of May, and the operations were carried on with great vigour till M. Daun arrived to its relief; he choſe ſuch a ſituation as ſufficiently embarraſſed the king of Pruſſia, and in the end diſconcerted his meaſures. The king would have given him battle, but he would not accept of it, he conſidered ſuch a ſtep as too hazardous, and therefore reſolved to act on a more certain plan. As the country was protected by the Auſtrian army, the king of Pruſſia was obliged to draw his ſubſiſtence from Sileſia, which Daun by his ſituation had already rendered difficult and dangerous. This general had intelligence that there was a large convoy on the road, coming to the Pruſſian camp, upon which he detached a conſiderable corps, which ſucceſsfully attacked the convoy, and took it. This was a terrible mortification to the king of Pruſſia; the city of Olmutz was ready to drop into his hands, but his army were without proviſions. In this condition the neceſſity of getting ſubſiſtance for his troops, compelled him to raiſe the ſiege, which he did on the firſt day of July, and began his march for Bohemia. The Auſtrian cavalry, during this retreat, hovered on his flanks, in order to harraſs him, but their attempts did

not diſturb his progreſs. In Bohemia he made ample amends for the loſs of his convoy, by ſeizing the Auſtrian magazines; but the Ruſſians having advanced into the New Marche of Brandenburgh, and already laid ſiege to Cuſtrin, his preſence in this country became of the utmoſt importance to check their further proceedings; therefore he advanced through Sileſia, raiſed the ſiege of Cuſtrin, and fought the Ruſſian army, commanded by the generals Fermor and Brown, on the 25th of Auguſt, near the village of Zorndorff. The ravages of the Ruſſians of which the country preſented a miſerable ſpectacle, animated the Pruſſians to the warmeſt deſire of revenge, but this ſpirit ſeemed to have quitted them in one of the critical minutes of the battle. The Ruſſians, though galled with perhaps the heavieſt fire of artillery that ever was ſeen, made ſo vigorous a charge on the Pruſſian infantry, as threw it into diſorder, and forced it to retreat: had the Ruſſians known how to make uſe of this advantage, they had gained the victory; but by their ignorance they loſt it; had they thrown their cavalry into this chaſm, they had effectually diſconcerted the whole Pruſſian army; as it was, the king of Pruſſia remedied the misfortune; general Seidlitz collected his cavalry, and furiouſly attacked the Ruſſian foot, which had advanced uncovered to purſue their advantage, and made a terrible ſlaughter amongſt them; this corps being repulſed in its turn, threw the whole Ruſſian army into the utmoſt confuſion, in which for ſome time they increaſed their own deſtruction, by firing on one another; yet in this ſtate of diſtraction they did not give ground, and the Pruſſians continued the work of carnage till night, when the Ruſſians retreated to a ſmall diſtance, and recovered of their diſorder, though their loſs, according to their own account, was 21,529 men, two thirds of which number were ſlain; next day they retreated, and he purſued them

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as far as Poland, which prevented them undertaking any thing further againſt him this year. In the mean time, the Auſtrians and Imperialiſts were wreſting Saxony out of his hands: M. Daun had taken the fortreſs of Sonneſtein, and in conjunction with the army of the Empire, now commanded by the duke de Deux Ponts, almoſt ſurrounded the quarters of prince Henry of Pruſſia, who was encamped at Dippolſwade with 20,000 men, ſo as to cover Dreſden. The king was no ſooner informed of theſe circumſtances, than he began his march with the utmoſt expedition, for the relief of his brother; and on the 11th of September, this junction was effected, which diſconcerted the plan of M. Daun, and obliged him to fall back as far as Zittau. The king, however, ſeparated from his brother, and ſhewed a deſign to cut off Daun's communication with Bohemia; while Daun ſhewed an intention to cut off his with Sileſia; a battle in this caſe ſeemed inevitable, and Daun reſolved to bring it on as ſoon as poſſible, leſt the time for action ſhould be loſt, and he obliged to evacuate Saxony, and ſo doing give up all the fruits of the campaign. The king of Pruſſia, was at this time, encamped at Hockirchen, a village in Luſatia. On the 14th of October, in the middle of a very dark night, Daun marched to the Pruſſian camp, and at five o'clock in the morning, his whole army began the attack with the utmoſt regularity and intrepedity. The Pruſſians were entirely ſurpriſed; this ſudden and unexpected attack, threw them into confuſion: ſome generals who were firſt alarmed, made a gallant reſiſtance; among theſe was marſhal Keith, who amidſt the horrors of darkneſs, carnage and deſpair, maintained a moſt deſperate and bloody conflict, for at leaſt three hours; during which, he three times gained poſſeſſion of of the village of Hockirchen, but he was every time obliged to abandon it, by a prodigious ſuperiority;

at length he received a ſhot in his breaſt, which killed him on the ſpot. Prince Francis of Brunſwick, the king's brother, met with the ſame fate. Whilſt M. Keith, was heading the right wing of the Pruſſians, againſt the flower of the Auſtrian army, M. Daun, made ſeveral feint attacks on the king, who commanded on the left, to prevent his reinforcing his right; but he made no impreſſion; the Pruſſians here were in proper order: unfortunately, on the right where they were firſt ſurpriſed, they were greatly embarraſſed by their ſtanding tents, which they had not time to ſtrike; therefore the Auſtrians continued their impetuoſity on this quarter, and that occaſioned the ſcene of action, to be principally confined to it. About nine o'clock, when all the efforts of the Pruſſians to oppoſe the progreſs of the Auſtrians had failed, the king reſolved on a retreat, which he effected in tolerable order, by the good countenance of his cavalry, and the heavy fire of his artillery; his loſs in this affair amounted to at leaſt 7000 men; and that of the Auſtrians was not leſs than 5000; the death of marſhal Keith, was to him, the moſt ſevere loſs; he could repair all the reſt, but there were none in his ſervice equal to Keith. Had he followed the advice of this officer, the day before the battle, he had not been ſurpriſed: Keith, diſapproved of the diſpoſition, and remonſtrated with the King upon it, but the latter was obſtinate. The King ſuffered conſiderably in his reputation, by permitting himſelf to be ſurprized. The advantage which M. Daun, propoſed to derive from this victory, was, the being enabled to cover the operations of leſſer armies in Sileſia; the ſiege of Neiſs, which had been ſome time formed, was now vigorouſly proſecuted, and a blockade was thrown round Coſel. The king of Pruſſia drew ſeveral reinforcements from Prince Henry's army in Saxony; and by ſeveral maſterly

maſterly movements, he opened his paſſage into Sileſia, which cruſhed in a moment all Daun's boaſted profits: the ſiege of Neiſs and the blockade of Coſel were raiſed on the firſt of November, and the Auſtrians, precipitately abandoned all Sileſia. When M. Daun found he could no longer hinder the King from entering into Sileſia, he reſolved to turn his own thoughts towards Saxony, and attempt the taking of Dreſden: this fortreſs had a Pruſſian garriſon of 12,000 men, commanded by count Schmettau, and was covered by an army, commanded by prince Henry of Pruſſia, which had been formed in the ſpring, and had lain in the neighbourhood ever ſince to protect Saxony and command the courſe of the Elbe. M. Daun approached Dreſden on the eighth of November, and ſhewed a deſign of taking the place by a coup de main; a party of light troops, ſhortly attacked the ſuburbs and drove out the Pruſſians. The city being but meanly fortified, and the governor perceiving the enemy's deſign, in which if they ſucceeded on the ſuburbs, they might command the ramparts of the city, and render its reduction equally eaſy and certain, was, by theſe conſiderations, determined to ſet fire to the ſuburbs, which was accordingly done next morning, and 250 houſes were conſumed, the inhabitants of which, loſt their all, and ſome their lives: this was a terrible extremity, and was conſidered by many courts in Europe, as a horrid act of cruelty. Daun ſaw this fire with ſurpiſe; it rendered a coup de main impracticable, and regular approaches demanded more time than he could employ, becauſe the king of Pruſſia was in full march towards Saxony. On the 20th that monarch arrived in the neighbourhood of Dreſden, and three days before the Auſtrian army and that of the empire, retreated into Bohemia, where they went into quarters. The Swedes made ſome ineffectual efforts to gain poſſeſſion of Pomerania; for a while, they were

were ſucceſsful, but they were afterwards compelled to relinquiſh what they had got.

As ſoon as Prince Ferdinand, with the Hanoverians, had taken Harburgh, he advanced into the country of Bremen and diſlodged the enemy from all the towns there. The duke de Richelieu, finding he could not ſtop the progreſs of the allies, was ſtimulated to commit the moſt unparalleled acts of wanton and unprovoked barbarity; among theſe, was the burning the orphan houſe at Zell, while the people were in it, and other deeds of rapine and oppreſſion: The French miniſtry were diſſatisfied with his conduct, and therefore recalled him, and gave the command of the army to the count de Clermont; this was the third commander which the French army had in one year; a circumſtance which ſufficiently evinces the unſteadineſs of their councils. Clermont found the troops in a moſt miſerable condition; the winter excurſions, want of neceſſaries, hard duty, ſevere weather and diſtempers, had reduced them to a wretched remnant; they abandoned the cities of Hanover and Zell and retired towards Hamelen: the town of Hoya upon the Weſer was taken by ſurpriſe, by the hereditary prince of Brunſwick, who had voluntarily entered into the army, in which he has frequently ſignalized himſelf; but this was his firſt exploit. After the taking of Hoya, Clermont retreated to the Rhine, and having paſſed that river, he intrenched his army until he ſhould receive reinforcements from France. The town of Embden, belonging to the king of Pruſſia, ſituated on the river Ems, next the ſea, of which the French had been in poſſeſſion ſome time, was now taken by an Engliſh ſquadron, commanded by commodore Holmes; the French garriſon evacuating the place: it has ſince been a port to land the Britiſh troops at; who have ſince, from time to time been ſent to reinforce the allies, and perhaps it was taken with that view.

view. Prince Ferdinand, followed the count de Clermont to the Rhine; and having paſſed that river, he took his meaſures ſo well, that he found means to attack the enemy's left wing at Crevelt on the 23d of June, which he routed and diſperſed after a ſhort diſpute, in which the French loſt, in ſlain and priſoners, between 4 and 5000 men.* Clermont, having collected the fugitives, retired and took refuge under the cannon of Cologne; where he was a tame ſpectator, of the reduction of Duſſeldorp, by the allies. However, the conquerors derived no kind of advantage from their victory: it ſeemed to have been only fought, for the ſake of diſplaying the genius of the general. The French army, being on their own frontiers, were ſoon reinforced; and another army was aſſembled at the other ſide of the Rhine, under the command of the prince de Soubiſe. Meaſures were then taken in England for reinforcing the allied army, and a corps under the duke of Marlborough was landed at Embden for that purpoſe. At this time, the count de Clermont reſigned his command, which was conferred on M. Contades, who threatened to attack prince Ferdinand in his turn; but the prince reſolved to lie quiet, until he ſhould be joined by the Britiſh troops: he flattered himſelf, that the Heſſian troops, commanded by the prince of Iſenbourgh, would prevent Soubiſe from entering Heſſe, until he received the reinforcement, when he

* In the army of the allies, was a ſmall body of Pruſſian troops; ſent as we may preſume, to aſſiſt the troops in Britiſh pay, to fruſtrate the deſigns of France, and repel her attacks on Hanover; in conſideration of our granting that monarch an immenſe ſubſidy. It is ſaid two regiments of cavalry belonging to the Pruſſian corps, refuſed to charge the French in this action; and thereby loſt the moſt favourable opportunity the allies ever had of defeating the enemy. This piece of intelligence, was induſtriouſly ſmothered in England, for fear it ſhould tend to make the German war unpopular.

purpoſed to transfer the ſeat of war into the enemy's country; but the duke de Broglio, who was detached by the prince de Soubiſe, attacked and defeated the prince of Iſenbourg, on the 23d of July, at Sangerſhauſen, and thereby not only opened a paſſage for the French troops into Weſtphalia, but likewiſe gave them poſſeſſion of the Weſer; advantages, which more than counterbalanced thoſe which prince Ferdinand had gained by his action at Crevelt: this prince now began to think of repaſſing the Rhine in order to effect his junction with the duke of Marlborough, which he had reaſon to apprehend the prince of Soubiſe would endeavour to prevent. M. de Chevert, an able French general, had paſſed the Rhine with 12,000 men, in order to beſiege Duſſeldorp; but finding that impracticable by the late heavy rains, he reſolved to diſlodge baron Imhoff, an Hanoverian officer, who was poſted with 3000 men at Meer, to cover the bridge over the Rhine at Rees, to ſecure a conſiderable magazine there, and preſerve the communication between prince Ferdinand and the duke of Marlborough: Chevert's deſign was to ſeize the magazine, burn the bridge, and cut off the Engliſh troops; and with this view he attacked Imhoff, on the fifth of Auguſt; but this officer having notice of his intentions, had taken his meaſures ſo well, that in half hour he repulſed the French officer with loſs, and obliged him to retire under the cannon of Weſel. This little victory was productive of great advantage to the allies: Imhoff quitted his poſt at Meer, and marched to meet the duke of Marlborough, with whom he happily effected a junction, which had hitherto been attended with many difficulties. Prince Ferdinand without any difficulty repaſſed the Rhine, and drew nearer to the prince of Iſenbourg; and that prince collected all his fugitives and began to recover from his diſorder; but Gottengen was, in the mean time, reduced by the prince de Soubiſe; who, perceiving

ceiving the Heſſians reaſſembling, ſhewed a deſign of attacking them again; upon which prince Ferdinand, detached general Oberg, with 13,000 men, to reinforce them and take the command of the whole: however, they were ſtill greatly inferior to Soubiſe's army, which unexpectedly attacked them on the laſt day of September, at Llanwerhagen in Heſſe, and defeated them with the loſs of 1500 men: as they effected a retreat in tolerable order, their defeat was not total; nor could Soubiſe reap any advantage from the victory, as the ſeaſon was too far advanced. Prince Ferdinand, had by this time retired into Weſtphalia, into which country Contades followed him, and both armies took up their winter quarters in it. The divers operations of this campaign, exerciſed the abilities of all the generals, and fully proved that this land war againſt France, is not only on a defenſive plan, but carried on an enormous expence to England. We ſee that when the French army was defeated, it was quickly reinforced at an eaſy expence, and obliged the allies in their turn to retire. This is killing men and expending money, without reaping any ſolid advantage. The French, by marching into Germany, and making a diverſion there of our blood and treaſure, prevent our whole force from being exerted againſt them in other parts of the globe, where we might affect the ſinews of their exiſtence. The fatigues of the campaign, occaſioned a fever to break out and rage among the allied troops, which carried off great numbers; of the Engliſh in particular, becauſe they were not accuſtomed to the climate and diet; nor indeed, enjoyed any benefit which their German friends could deprive them of, though they were come to lay down their lives in their defence. This fatality cut off the duke of Marlborough at Munſter; the numbers of private men, which were carried off by the ſame cauſe, were perhaps concealed for reaſons of ſtate; becauſe, in a

government like ours, where things depend ſo much on popularity, any intelligence, which tends to render odious a favourite cauſe, are for the moſt part induſtriouſly hid; yet the death of a great man, when he amounts to a commander in chief, cannot be concealed. The command devolved upon lord George Sackville.

The French, finding their power in the Eaſt-Indies, not ſufficient to cope with the Engliſh, ſent thither a ſquadron of men of war, under the command of M. d' Apche, on board of which, was embarked 8000 troops, commanded by M. Lally. The Britiſh miniſtry, to prevent any material advantages flowing from this additional ſtrength, diſpatched a fleet on the ſame deſtination, and about the ſame force, under the command of commodore Steevens. The firſt of Lally's operations were againſt fort St. David, on the coaſt of Coromandel; which he took and deſtroyed in April 1758. During the time of this attack, the French ſquadron amounting to nine ſhips, lying off the fort, were engaged by admiral Pococke and commodore Steevens; but ſome of the Britiſh captains behaving in a timid manner, expoſed theſe gallant officers to a very unequal combat: the action began in the afternoon, and laſted until night; when the fleets ſeparated, the French ſailed to Pondicherry, and the Engliſh to Madraſs. The finances of France, were ſo extremely low, when Lally was ſent to the Eaſt-Indies, that the miniſtry could not afford to give him any money, to defray any expences neceſſarily incurred by his operations: therefore, to remove this difficulty, he reſolved to apply to the king of Tanjour, a prince of the country, for a grant of a conſiderable ſum; but his requeſt being refuſed, he was ſo exaſperated as to lay ſiege to the monarch's capital; from which the want of proviſions, and the ſkill of ſome Engliſh engineers, who ſerved in the place, ſoon compelled to retire. In the

the mean time admiral Pococke, having refitted his ſquadron, ſailed in queſt of the French fleet, which lay near Pondicherry; but on his appearance they ran away, and he purſued them: on the third of Auguſt, he came up with them, and began a ſecond engagement, but as it was only a running fight, it was productive of no advantage, and in the night the French got back into Pondicherry road, where they were protected by the cannon of the place.

In America, the beam of glory ſhone on the Britiſh arms, with a luſtre that had been hitherto unknown. Thoſe diviſions at home, which had been ſo long prevalent were now ſubſided, and the new patriot miniſtry, being by this time eſtabliſhed, reſolved on vigorous meaſures. They determined to take Louiſbourg; and in order to make uſe of the ſeaſon, and to be before-hand with the enemy, in attacking it before they had time to reinforce it, admiral Boſcawen, with a ſtrong ſquadron departed from Spithead, in the month of February; he proceeded to Halifax in Nova-Scotia, where, receiving ſome additional ſtrength, he appeared on the ſecond of June, off Louiſbourgh; having on board his ſhips, 14,000 land forces, commanded by by the generals Amherſt and Wolfe. The prodigious ſurff, which ſwelled along the ſhore, prevented their landing until the eighth, when the intrepid Wolfe, with a body of men, put off to ſhore, and landed in the face of the enemy's diſcharges of cannon and muſquetry; drove them away, by which the reſt of the troops were landed without oppoſition. The operations of the ſiege were begun as early as poſſible, and as ſoon as a few difficulties were overcome, were carried on with great vigour; but there being five French men of war in the harbour, who might diſturb the beſiegers, general Wolfe erected a battery againſt them, and had the good fortune to burn three of them, and to ſilence a ſmall fort, which commands the harbour

called the Iſland battery. When theſe two ſervices were performed, admiral Boſcawen, who had remained all this while out of the harbour, reſolved to gain poſſeſſion of it, and for this purpoſe, he ſent in ſix hundred ſeamen, under the direction of Capt. Laforey, to take or burn the other two ſhips; this gallant officer took one and towed her off, and the other he ſet on fire; this ſtroke was deciſive, for next day, July the 26th, the town ſurrendered, and the garriſon and ſeamen amounting to 5,600, were made priſoners. In a few days after the Iſland of St. John, and other appendages ſurrendered to the Britiſh arms. As it was intended to extend theſe valuable conqueſts, and perfectly ſecure that property, for which the war was undertaken, it was deemed unneceſſary to hold this place in expenſive poſſeſſion, and therefore the fortifications of Louiſbourg, were in a little time totally demoliſhed. While this gem was adding to the Britiſh crown, general Abercrombie (lord Loudon having been recalled, his conduct not being ſo ſatisfactory as might have been expected from an officer of his reputation) intended to reduce the forts of Ticonderago and Crown Point, which were contiguous to each other, in order to open an eaſy paſſage into Canada; he paſſed lake George with 16,000 troops, and a numerous artillery, and advanced towards Ticonderago; the guides being unſkilful, the troops were bewildered in the woods, and parties of the enemies hovered about them; with one of which, conſiſting of French and Indians, a ſkirmiſh happened in which the gallant and ſincerely beloved lord Howe was killed. On the 8th of July, they appeared before the fort, which was ſecured in front by a retrenchment; this being reconnoitered, it was reported that it might be taken with muſquetry, and in conſequence of this report, it was reſolved not to wait for the cannon, which was not yet come up, but attack it immediately; by this raſhneſs the attempt

attempt miſcarried; the troops advanced to the lines, and were for four hours expoſed to a terrible fire; they attacked the French ſword in hand, in the moſt reſolute manner, and had ſo diſcomfited them, by this aſtoniſhing bravery, as to make them think of abandoning their defences, and thoſe within the fort, to make preparations for retiring; when a reſolution as precipitate as the firſt, directed theſe brave troops to withdraw from the attack, and make the beſt of their way to lake George: this unfortunate affair coſt at leaſt 2000 men. The other meaſures undertaken by the Engliſh on this Continent, were happily executed; among theſe we ſhall enumerate the taking of fort Frontenac, ſituated on the river St. Lawrence, by colonel Bradſtreet on the 27th of Auguſt, the garriſon conſiſting of only one hundred and thirty men were made priſoners, and the fort was demoliſhed. General Forbes marched from Penſylvania, againſt fort Du Queſne, the taking of which it was known, would greatly obſtruct the communication between Canada and Louiſiana: his advanced guard under col. Grant, by approaching too near the fort, perhaps with a deſign to take it, by a coup de main, ſuffered a defeat; but when the main body ſhewed a reſolution of maſtering the fort, the garriſon wiſely abandoned it; and general Forbes took poſſeſſion of it without oppoſition. Thus once more the Britiſh flag was hoiſted on thoſe walls, the property of which had been a principal cauſe of contention. The fort was now called Pittſburg, with a propriety that need not be pointed out.

In Africa, a quarter to which the Britiſh arms have ſeldom adventured, new acquiſitions were added to the Britiſh crown, which reflect equal honour to him who framed the deſign, with any of thoſe in America, though perhaps of leſs importance to the nation; thus were the plans of operation as extenſive as they were vigorous: a ſmall armament was ſent in the month

month of March, principally under the direction of one Mr. Cumming, a quaker, who communicated the intelligence to the miniſtry, on which the deſign was founded, though it was nominally commanded by commodore Marſh; they entered the river Senegal, notwithſtanding the obſtruction of a dangerous bar, and on the firſt of May obliged fort Louis, which commands the river, to ſurrender. This was the firſt ſucceſsful expedition undertaken during this war. The victors attempted to take the iſland of Goree, another French ſettlement on this coaſt; but their force being unequal to the ſtrength of the place, they found it neceſſary to relinquiſh their project. However, the miniſtry perceiving the good effects of the firſt enterprize, equipped another expedition for the conqueſt of Goree, appointing commodore Keppel to the command of the ſhips, and lieutenant-colonel Worge, to that of a detachment of troops, whom they ſent. Theſe officers found the iſland extremely ſtrong by nature, but badly fortified: the commodore attacked the fort with ſuch ſpirit and reſolution, that in a little time he compelled the garriſon to ſurrender at diſcretion. The place was garriſoned by Engliſh troops, and thoſe at fort Louis, were reinforced, which done, the commodore returned to England; as did admiral Boſcawen, from America; likewiſe general Abercrombie, from the ſame place, whoſe conduct, like that of his predeceſſors, had fallen under the diſapprobation of his countrymen.

Since Mr. Pitt came into the adminiſtration, a remarkable ſpirit of enterprize and reſolution diffuſed itſelf among all the military and naval commanders, that indolence, indifference, and caution, which was ſo conſpicuous three years before, was now entirely baniſhed, and activity, zeal, and fearleſs execution ſeemed to reign in every breaſt; and this was wholly effected by the influence, ſagacity, and intrepedity of the miniſter. The French and Britiſh cruizers, covered

covered the ſeas and ſcoured them of the enemy's trading veſſels and privateers. Admiral Oſborne was ſtationed in the Mediterranean, to protect the Britiſh commerce in that ſea, and prevent a French ſquadron equipped at Toulon, from coming into the Atlantic ſea. The principal part of this ſquadron commanded by M. De la Clue, he blocked up in the Spaniſh harbour of Carthagena, while the reſt commanded by the marquiſs Du Queſne, formerly governor of Canada, not being then equipped, came ſoon after to reinforce his colleague, when falling in with part of the Engliſh ſquadron, two of his ſhips were taken, *viz.* the Foudroyant, of 84 guns, in which he was himſelf, by the Monmouth, of 64 guns, commanded by captain Gardiner, who was killed; and the Orpheus of 64 guns; another was drove aſhore on the coaſt of Spain, and the fourth and laſt eſcaped.

At the beginning of the year it is ſaid, there were ſome divided opinions, concerning how the theatre of the war ſhould be made: ſome perſons whoſe well-meaning may not be diſputed, but whoſe weakneſs and pliancy were always for clogging the intereſt of Great-Britain, with meaſures of an extraneous and incumbering nature, were for bending the dignity and importance of the national affairs, to the ſervility of being ſecondary concerns to thoſe of Germany; they were for embarking our whole land force, to the aſſiſtance of prince Ferdinand, to enable him to keep the French on their own frontiers, which theſe *moſt ſagacious* politicians ſaid, would bring matters to a ſpeedy deciſion. The real friends of Britain, who were enjoined in the guidance of buſineſs of this high import, and had but lately come into power, urged as the primary object, the deſtruction of the French marine; the ſhaking their internal ſecurity by expeditions to their coaſts; not upon any account weaken our efforts in America, which however would be, in caſe

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we did embark our force for Germany: they ſaid an army of 50,000 foreigners, maintained at our expence, was certainly enough in Germany to keep the French at bay; for they looked upon continental operations, in only a ſecondary light, and the ſending our troops thither, as ſquandering away our men as well as money, whereas were they employed in continually alarming the enemy's coaſt, it would employ and harraſs the French troops at home. The popularity of theſe latter, brought their opinions to prevail. Two ſquadrons were fitted out by the latter end of May, which filled the French coaſt with terror: the greater was commanded by lord Anſon, deſtined to watch the enemies ports, and to prevent their ſhips from incommoding the landing of the troops; the leſſer was commanded by commodore Howe, with whom embarked the duke of Marlborough, with 13,000 men, and a train of artillery; this force the commodore ſafely landed on the 5th of June, in Cancalle bay, near St. Malo; the town being found too ſtrong to attempt, they ſet fire to an hundred ſail of ſhipping in a baſon, under the cannon of the caſtle, without its ever offering to fire a gun at them; they likewiſe burned ſeveral magazines of naval ſtores, and did other conſiderable damage to the enemy: having nothing further to do, they reimbarked without moleſtation, and reconnoitered the coaſt towards the town of Cherbourg, but their proviſions being ſhort, and the ſoldiers ſickly, by being ſo long cooped up in the tranſports, they returned to St. Helens on the 29th. Though this expedition was ſucceſsful, did great damage to the enemy, and proved that he was vulnerable upon his own coaſt, yet did the old leaven continue to haggle for an acquieſcence to their own projects, and attempt to modify their conſtruction on ſomething that was German; perhaps they were importuned by our German friends, and their ſollicitations proceeded in conſequence, as well as their

their uneaſineſs, and diſlike of meaſures, that were conducted on a ſingle principle. Theſe new men in office, found there was no other way to preſerve harmony, but capitulate with their opponents; therefore, they conſented to the ſending the duke of Marlborough, with a body of Britiſh troops to Germany. This, they knew, was enervating our power at home; and, if the expeditions to France ſhould be continued, which, conſidering the expence of firſt equiping the ſquadrons, would much better be done, than let the ſhips lie idle; they could anſwer no end, but expoſing us to the langor of our enemies, by being, with a handful of men, only enabled to make little deultory efforts, and immediately obliged to embark, perhaps, with difficulty and hazard; all which, in the end, proved to be the caſe, and yet, by being circumſtanced amidſt embarraſſments, they could not prevent the evils. In the ſecond expedition, the command of the land forces, not amounting to 6000 men, was given to general Bligh; his royal highneſs prince Edward, now duke of York, entered as a volunteer with commodore Howe: On the 6th of Auguſt they were landed near Cherbourg, where they deſtroyed the mole, pier, baſon, ſluices, floodgates, and many other excellent works for making a complete, convenient, and ſtrong harbour; begun, but not yet finiſhed, at a prodigious expence to the French king: they burned ſome veſſels, which they found in the harbour, and took hoſtages for the payment of contributions which they levied; and put on board the ſhips twenty pieces of braſs cannon and two mortars, which they found in the place. This ordnance was brought to England; and, for a while, lay in Hyde-Park for public view, and were afterwards carried in childiſh and ridiculous triumph to the Tower. Many people conſidered this parade, as calculated to keep the people in good humour to ſupport the charges of the war; and it muſt be owned theſe ſights forcibly

ſtrike ordinary minds, but is it not ſtrange to ſee men of ſenſe intoxicate themſelves in this low, illiberal manner, and fall paſſively down into the tumultuous torrent of the ignorant, inconſiderate, and contemptuous rabble, and mingle in perſon and opinion, with this ſcum of human nature, that are a diſgrace to our country? On the 16th the troops were re-embarked, perhaps, with a deſign of viſiting ſome other part of the enemy's coaſt, but the fleet was driven to the coaſt of England, where it remained only two days without landing the troops, and then returned to the coaſt of France: A ſecond time the troops were landed near St. Malo; it is aſtoniſhing to think what the general could mean by this diſembarkation, ſince the duke of Marlborough with a ſuperior force, had done all that poſſibly could be done in this neighbourhood—except he meant to take the town; but finding he could not, he imprudently marched into the country, while the fleet, for the better conveniency of receiving the troops, moved into the bay of St. Cas, or St. Caſt. However, upon having certain intelligence brought him, that the duke d'Aiguillon, with a ſuperior force, was in full march againſt him, he reſolved, to return to the ſhips; yet from ſome unaccountable fatality, though the troops were not far from the ſhore, a great deal of time was unneceſſarily and prodigally thrown away, in performing this retreat. Moſt people apprehend, that, with prudence, the troops might have been re-embarked unmoleſted; as it was, the enemy, though at a much greater diſtance, gained the beach as ſoon as the Engliſh: It is true, the major part of our troops were put on board the tranſports, before the enemy ventured to appear; but the rear-guard, compoſed of grenadiers, and the firſt regiment of guards, amounting, in the whole, to about 1500 men, under the command of major general Dury, for Bligh was gone on board the fleet, were at this time on the beach.

Dury

Dury following the dictates of rage and deſpair, permitted the enemy without hindrance, to aſſemble in great numbers in his front; and, when that was done, he attacked them; his efforts were ſeconded by the frigates and bomb-ketches, ranged along the ſhore, the troops fought in a moſt courageous manner, and their bravery was worthy of a better fortune, in a little time their ammunition was expended, and they of courſe, gave way before ſuperior numbers; the enemy at firſt gave no quarter, but the ſhips ceaſing to fire, clemency was ſhewn, and part of our troops ſurrendred at diſcretion; the reſt jumped into the ſea and were drowned, among whom was Dury himſelf. Some few were carried to the ſhips in boats; but a much greater number might have been ſaved, had the ſailors emptied their boats into the firſt ſhip they came to, and returned directly to the beach for the reſt; but inſtead of that they infamouſly preſerved a punctilio, in carrying the troops to the particular tranſport they came out of, without conſidering the diſtance of the ſituation. The fleets returned home, and went to France no more. Bligh ſuffered greatly in his reputation; and, as ſome think, undeſervedly. The people of England were diſpirited by this affair, and thoſe of France elated; both, by far more than they ought to have been, conſidering it was a tranſaction of but little moment.

On the 23d of November, the parliament met, when the ſupplies amounted to the enormous ſum of 12,761,310l. which was unanimouſly granted. The reſt of the buſineſs tranſacted, during this ſeſſion, was principally relating to private matters, which in this epitome, we cannot take upon us to particularize. The ſeſſion cloſed on the 2d of June, 1759.

The inclinations of the powers at war were not the leaſt altered at the beginning of this year from what they were at the cloſe of the laſt: however,

the plan of operations in Germany was ſomething different; laſt year the king of Pruſſia and Prince Ferdinand acted independently; this year they reſolved to act in concert: it was deſigned to firſt deſtroy the Ruſſian magazines in Poland, while prince Ferdinand ſhould drive the French towards the Rhine, and getting between them and the army of the empire, cut off their communication; prince Henry was to ruſh out of Saxony, and cut off the communication between the Imperialiſts and Auſtrians; and count Daun and the king of Pruſſia were left ſingly to oppoſe each other. The firſt part of this plan was executed with ſucceſs: ſo early as the month of February, the Pruſſian general Woberſnow, deſtroyed as many magazines in Poland, as would have ſubſiſted 50,000 men for three months. In the month of April, prince Henry executed his part with equal celerity and good fortune; the king of Pruſſia making a motion, which drew the Auſtrians towards Sileſia, the prince entered Bohemia, and turned the army of the empire into Voigtland, where he ſkirmiſhed with them to advantage, and raiſed contributions in the country; he even diſabled Franconia from giving them any aſſiſtance, but as he found Prince Ferdinand had not ſucceeded, and that the French army could ſuccour them, he returned to his old ſituation in Saxony. Prince Ferdinand purpoſing to drive the French troops from Francfort, which they had illegally ſeized, and from which they derived no ſmall advantage, as it ſecured to them the courſe of the rivers Maeſe and Rhine, by which they could receive ſupplies and refreſhments, he, in the month of March, put himſelf at the head of a corps of the allies, and advanced to execute this deſign; but the duke de Broglio, with a conſiderable detachment of the French troops, poſted himſelf in a very ſtrong and judicious manner at Bergen, between Francfort and Hanau; which poſt, prince Ferdi-

Ferdinand found it neceſſary to force, before he could penetrate to Francfort. Lord George Sackville, who commanded the Britiſh forces, proteſted againſt ſuch an attack as raſh and imprudent: however, prince Ferdinand ordered the prince of Iſenbourg, to attack the enemy's intrenchments, which he did with great intrepidity, and was repulſed; twice more he returned to the charge, and in the latter fell, with near 2000 of his countrymen. Prince Ferdinand, finding it impoſſible to force this poſt, withdrew, while the French with a prodigious ſuperiority obliged him to retreat, and act on the defenſive until the month of Auguſt; when having followed him to the town of Minden on the Weſer, M. Contades, who was ſtill the French commander, reſolved to give him battle; the vicinity of the two armies, for ſeveral days, had made prince Ferdinand apprehenſive of ſuch a ſtep; but he did not expect it on the day it happened: he was conſcious, that they intended to deprive him of the courſe of the Weſer; and that was one of the principal advantages they expected to derive from an action: therefore general Wangenheim, with a conſiderable corps, was entrenched at Dodenhauſen, on the banks of the Weſer, while the reſt of the army was encamped at a ſmall diſtance near the village of Hille. On the laſt day of July, Contades gave his orders for fighting; he directed the duke de Broglio to march in the dead of the following night and early in the morning to force Wangenheim, who it was apprehended was not ſtrong, and place himſelf between the allied army and the Weſer, while Contades, ſhould on a ſudden ſurprize the Prince in front. Broglio, to his great aſtoniſhment, found Wangenheim's troops drawn up in excellent order, entrenched and defended by a numerous artillery; this diſcovery put a ſtop to his operations. About the ſame time Contades fired upon Hille, which alarmed the allies, who forthwith put themſelves in order, expecting the French were come

come to give them battle; but finding them not ſo near as they had apprehended, they advanced to the plain of Minden, and there ſaw the enemy. Broglio attacked Wangenheim with great vivacity; but the artillery was ſo admirably ſerved againſt him, that his troops recoiled, and he found it neceſſary to retire. Contades directed his cavalry to charge the allied infantry, whom he perceived to be advancing: here the brunt of the action fell: ſix regiments of Engliſh infantry and two battalions of Hanoverian guards, ſuſtained the efforts of the whole French centre, conſiſting of horſe, the flower of their cavalry and the ſtrength of their army, with a reſolution and expertneſs in their minœvre, as perhaps never was equalled. During this conflict, orders were ſent to the Britiſh and Hanoverian horſe on the right, commanded by lord George Sackville, divided from the infantry by a wood, to come up and ſuſtain the infantry; but the commander apprehending theſe orders to be not ſufficiently explicit and conſiſtent, he heſitated in the execution, by which it is believed by ſome, that the precious moment was loſt. The Britiſh infantry having defeated the French cavalry, and there was no horſe at hand to effectually finiſh the work: others ſay, that had theſe orders been immediately obeyed, his lordſhip could not come up time enough to have had any ſhare in the action *.

There

* We ſhall not pretend to give our own opinion in this nice point of controverſy, we ſhall only endeavour to elucidate it as far as we are able. It is ſuppoſed, that lord G——— S——— had early in the campaign, ſhewn a diſlike to prince Ferdinand's plan of operations, and from hence aroſe a difference between them; the Engliſh officer, who is naturally haughty in his behaviour, reſolved to carry himſelf with that ſpirit of independence, that ſcorns to pay ſervile court to foreign hirelings; his extenſive underſtanding, penetrating eye, and inquiſitive ſpirit, could neither be deceived, dazzled, nor ſoothed into tame acquieſence: this was diametrically oppoſite to what the German general would have been glad to have found; the opportunities which he had

of

There was a ſtrange confuſion this day; the artillery had no orders till very late, and the engineers were galloping about the field in queſt of orders, when aid du camps ought to have ſpared them the neceſſity of quitting

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of making a fortune, would not have been oppoſed, had the commander of the *pay-all*, been a docile, pliant tool, whom he might make to believe whatever he pleaſed, and mould into all his views. By exhibiting many marks of a prying diſpoſition, L— G— at length became ſo diſagreeable to the commander in chief, that nothing ſeemed to be ſo eagerly deſired, as an opportunity for removing him. The deſigns againſt the enemy were kept a profound ſecret from him; and he was omitted at the military councils whenever it was poſſible: hence is it in the leaſt to be doubted that the German general determined in the firſt battle, to ſo manage in ſending his orders to him, as to puzzle him in the execution of his duty? For which end, during this action, two expreſſes were ſent to the Engliſh officer, almoſt at the ſame inſtant, the one for him to march with the cavalry under his command, which was begun to be obeyed; when a ſecond expreſs came, [the intended puzzler] directing him to bring the Britiſh cavalry only; as this ſtep would break the line which lord George could not think the prince intended, he went to the commander, who ordered him to bring up the whole, but then it was pretended they were too late for ſervice, and were therefore ordered to diſmount, becauſe they ſhould not purſue. That this was all a ſcheme to perplex lord G——— may be eaſily gathered, from an account of the battle publiſhed at the Hague, by the authority of P——— F ——— himſelf; wherein it is expreſsly declared, that the cavalry on the right was not deſtined to ſuſtain the infantry, and that if it had really been deſigned for action, it would have been poſted in another place. Let not an Engliſh mind ſtartle at this information, time may perhaps ſhew the whole affair is conſonant with the character the German general bears. It is aſſerted by the Duc de Belleiſle, that the evening before the action, there was laid upon Ferdinand's table, the order of the battle, precipitately drawn up by M. Contades himſelf; by which Prince Ferdinand perceived that the French Marſhall was ſo impatient to give battle, that he had not taken care to ſecure the paſſes in caſe of a retreat. Without doubt Contades's impatience was the rock on which he ſplit; but with regard to the order of battle, it is rather to be doubted than affirmed; for the circumſtances of the action clearly ſhew, that the whole army of the allies, except the corps of Wangenheim, were ſurprized, and therefore Prince Ferdinand had no ſuch previous information. After the battle prince Ferdinand paid ſome compliments to ſeveral officers for their gallant behaviour; but although the

quitting their ſtations: at length, lord George Sackville directed them to proceed to the front, where they were of the utmoſt ſervice towards obtaining the victory. Contades, finding that his cavalry could not reſiſt

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Engliſh had the greateſt ſhare in obtaining the victory, yet he caſt a cloud over their triumph, in ſome unmanly expreſſions, that convey'd a ſevere reflection on lord G———: he in his letter of thanks, required with an emphaſis, that his orders for the future be punctually obeyed: he expreſſed his concern, that the Marquis of Granby, had not the command of the Britiſh cavalry; and obſerved, that if it had been ſo, the action would have been more complete. The oblique inſinuation concerning the diſobedience of orders, and the invidious compliment to a ſubordinate officer, were ſtrong, and we will venture to ſay, malicious reflections on the conduct of lord G———S———; becauſe they contained nothing poſitive, which a brave and honeſt man, unconſcious of deſign, would not have been afraid to aſſert. As ſoon as theſe dark and cenſorious implications were publiſhed in the London Gazette, the people were in an inſtant alarmed, they grew outragious in their indignation againſt lord G———; he was branded by the raſh, ignorant, and infatuated multitude, as a traitor, and a coward: the German war being popular, and the people obſtinately adhering to the prejudices they had eſpouſed in its favour, the not having done any thing in Germany, was worſe then neglecting the real national good in America; he was ſtigmatized with the moſt virulent inſult and abuſe that the moſt ſavage breaſt could ſuggeſt, while a parcel of ſcandalous and libellous pamphlets were poured into the hands of the public, teeming with invectives, falſhoods, reports, and every piece of infamy, which the cruel aſſaſſinators could deviſe. Is it not ſtrange, that men of ſenſe, ſhould give encouragement to ſuch catch-penny traffic, and ſuffering their temperament to be over-ruled, join in the out-cry of an enraged and ignorant mob, who, knowing no moderation, riſe up in a blaze and infamouſly ſtigmatize a reputation before they are poſitive of one circumſtance that is bad? How hard then is the caſe of our officers, who have ſuch a raſh, impatient, and capricious people to pleaſe; who upon any error in which an officer happens to fall, without inveſtigating his merit, or conſidering the affair, become clamorous to a degree of perſecution. As ſoon as that extraordinary letter of thanks, or rather monkiſh litany of Saints, for it had all the air of one, was given out, lord G—— S—— reſigned his command. This legend of compliments was merely farſical; for a few days after, prince Ferdinand publiſhed, as a codicil to his will, a letter to captain M'Beane of the artillery, making a kind of reparation for having

reſiſt the Britiſh infantry, and that theſe troops broke every corps before them, ordered a retreat, which the duke de Broglio covered in a very excellent manner The loſs of the French amounted to near 7000 men, ſlain and priſoners; that of the allies exceeded 2500. The vanquiſhed retreated acroſs the Weſer, and for want of ſubſiſtence they precipitately fled off towards Caſſel: the allies took ſeveral towns in the purſuit, and laid ſiege to Munſter; but the French

having omitted his merit, which it was impoſſible his highneſs ſhould not know, if he was not ignorant of the tranſactions of the battle, and innocent of the victory. Lord G——— S———, returned to Lodon, juſt when the flame was at its utmoſt height, and when every mouth was opened with execration againſt him: he had moreover, the mortification to hear the name of the German general extolled throughout the whole kingdom, in raptures of exaggeration, and even in childiſh and ridiculous hyperbole; while plaiſters of praiſe ignorantly compoſed, were ſtupidly laid on his ſhoulders, as if he was ſo infernally black as to have need of ſuch purification; and while as, the moſt glorious mark of r—— approbation, he was inveſted with the order of the garter, and preſented with 20,000l. the Engliſh general was diſmiſſed from every employment he held under the government. Will it hereafter be believed that Engliſhmen took ſuch pains to blacken their own country's honour? that they would ſuffer themſelves to be deceived by the tools and emiſſaries of p— F—, and the friends of a foreign cauſe, of which to ſpeak in the ſofteſt terms, is alien to their intereſts? and contrary to the eſtabliſhed law of their country, condemn unheard? Are theſe proper rewards for tamely laviſhing our blood and treaſure? Lord G——after being acquainted with the particulars of his imputed guilt, ſolicited, and at length obtained a trial, by a court-martial, to whom it appeared, the orders of prince F——— had not been obeyed, and notwithſtanding many eligible circumſtances appeared in his lordſhip's behalf, both as to his being kept ignorant of orders previous to the battle, and as to his willingneſs to obey all intelligent orders, and many other things which the reader may ſee recited at large in the authentic copy of the trial, to which is annexed a plan of the battle, yet he was adjudged unfit for future ſervice, and the king ordered the ſentence to be read at the head of all his troops, and ſtruck him off the liſt of privy-counſellors.

relieving it, they ſet a bound to the progreſs of their arms, leaving the enemy at the concluſion of the campaign, juſt where they had found them at the beginning.

Notwithſtanding the deſtruction of the Ruſſian magazines, early in the year, that power nevertheleſs put its army in motion about the ſame time as uſual; and theſe troops, numbered at 7000 men, commanded by count Soltikoff, proſecuted their march to Sileſia. Count Dohna, who commanded the Pruſſian army in thoſe parts, finding them too numerous for him to attack with any proſpect of ſucceſs, contented himſelf with watching their motions and harraſſing their march: though this conduct was extremely prudent and juſtifiable, yet the king of Pruſſia, fired with his uſual precipitation and impatience, diſapproved of it; upon which count Dohna reſigned, and general Wedel was ordered to take the command of the army, and at all events to fight the Ruſſians. Accordingly, on the 23d. of July he with 30,000 men attacked their advantageous poſt at Zullichau, near Croſſen; and after maintaining the conflict with great reſolution, though under many difficulties, for ſeveral hours, he retired with the loſs of at leaſt 8000 men; in conſequence of which, the Ruſſians gained poſſeſſion of Croſſen and Francfort upon the Oder. The king of Pruſſia, exaſperated by this defeat, reſolved to give them battle himſelf, and immediately ſeparated from his army a conſiderable corps, with which he began his march to join the troops of Wedel, leaving prince Henry with the remainder to obſerve count Daun; but this able general knowing the king of Pruſſia's deſign, detached a body of 12000 horſe under general Laudon, to the aſſiſtance of the Ruſſians, and by extreme good fortune this junction was effected: however, the king of Pruſſia having aſſembled an army of 50,000 men, determined to give them battle: and accordingly, on the 12th of Auguſt early in the morning

ing, he found the enemy in an entrenched camp at Cunnerſdorff, defended by an incredible number of cannon; he attacked the left wing with great bravery, and after a bloody diſpute of ſix hours, he maſtered a defile and ſeveral redoubts, took a great number of cannon, and obliged the enemy to begin to retreat. At this juncture he diſpatched a billet to his queen, couched in the following terms, "Madam, we "have beat the Ruſſians from their entrenchments: "in two hours expect to hear of a glorious victory." But he was deceived; the Ruſſians were not yet defeated: they had retired indeed to a place called the Jews Burying Ground; but this was an eminence, and the moſt advantageous poſt, which in theſe circumſtances they could have choſen: however, he reſolved to drive them ſtill further, though this enterprize was of the moſt difficult nature; his generals perceiving this raſhneſs, unanimouſly repreſented to him, the imprudence of attempting to puſh the advantages they had gained any further; the enemy were ſtill numerous, had a vaſt artillery, the poſt which they occupied was of great ſtrength, his troops had been engaged a long time in the ſevereſt action they ever knew, and one of the hotteſt days they ever felt, were too much fatigued, for ſuch a new aſſault, an aſſault that might even ſtagger freſh troops; they urged that the advantage which he had gained, would be as deciſive in its conſequence as that at Zorndorff; that the enemy would ſoon be obliged to retire into Poland, and he would be at liberty to act in other quarters where his preſence was more neceſſary. All theſe excellent arguments weighed as nothing, he obſtinately adhered to his fool-hardy reſolution. Thus rejecting every thing that was prudent, and actuated by frenzy, he began a new attack which was beyond his ſtrength. Now putting all to the hazard, his fainting army with ſome little remains of unexhauſted ardor, fought againſt the enemy's im-

pregnable ſituation. Theſe feeble battalions being uncovered with cannon, becauſe they could bring none up, and the enemy having recovered from their conſternation, were repulſed with great ſlaughter; yet ſtill did the king of Pruſſia, with a mad and inhuman perſeverance, order them to return to the charge; when being routed with greater ſlaughter, he in a wild ungovernable paſſion of deſpair and revenge, put the affair to the cavalry, notwithſtanding the horſes as well as the riders had been previouſly ſpent; they made ſeveral unſucceſsful efforts, and being entirely broke, the Auſtrian cavalry which had hitherto been inactive, fell amongſt them, threw them into utter confuſion and compleated their deſtruction; the remains of the army, which but lately had been victorious, were now ſeized with a panic, and diſperſed in the beſt manner they were able, without any thoughts of preſerving their baggage, cannon, or one ſingle utenſil; life alone was the prevailing conſideration, and night preſerved them from total ruin. The king had two horſes killed under him, and ſeveral balls went through his cloaths. There was ſcarce a general, or even an inferior officer in his army that was not either killed or wounded. His loſs was greater in this action than in any he had ever ſeen before; at leaſt 19,000 of his troops were ſlain, a great number were made priſoners, all his baggage, cannon, and every thing he brought into the field, fell into the hands of his enemy. When he abandoned this horrible ſcene, he diſpatched another billet to the queen, thus expreſſed, "Remove from Berlin with the royal family. Let "the archieves be carried to Potſdam. The town "may make conditions with the enemy." It is not difficult to conceive the terror and confuſion this intimation produced at Berlin, in the midſt of their rejoicings occaſioned by the firſt meſſenger. The loſs of the conquerors amounted to about 11 or 12,000 men.

men. Next day the king of Pruſſia retreated over the Oder, and began to collect his fugitives; in a little time he recovered from his diſorder, without any obſtruction from the enemy, and drew a freſh train of artillery out of the ſtores at Berlin. He ſaw with joy and aſtoniſhment, the enemy's forbearance to improve their victory; they, inſtead of overwhelming him with ruin, or advancing towards his capital, contented themſelves with joining count Daun in Luſatia, and holding conſultations with that general; in which it is more than probable the Auſtrians were not willing the Ruſſians ſhould take poſſeſſion of Brandenburgh, therefore his ſafety flowed from this jealouſy or diſappointment. In the mean time the army of the Empire had penetrated into Saxony, and reduced the towns of Hall, Leipſic, Torgau and Dreſden. The king of Pruſſia apprehending the Ruſſians had a deſign on Great Glogau, took poſt in ſuch a manner as to cover the town; while count Daun, ſuſpecting prince Henry of Pruſſia, intending to retake Dreſden, made a forced march in order to ſave that capital. The Auſtrians and Ruſſians being thus ſeparated, and the latter baffled in their ſcheme on Great Glogau, and beginning to think of retiring, the king of Pruſſia, formed a plan for cutting off count Daun's retreat into Bohemia: he detached general Finck with 20,000 men to take poſſeſſion of the defiles of Maxen behind the Auſtrians; which was no ſooner done, than Daun reconnoitred his ſituation, and reſolved to attack him; for this purpoſe he firſt ſecretly ſurrounded the Pruſſians, and on the 24th of November, Finck perceived the enemy's approach on every ſide. In this emergency, he began to think of foiling their attempt in ſome part, ſo as to obtain a retreat; for a whole day he made the moſt intrepid efforts to diſengage himſelf; but it was impoſſible: the enemy's numbers had ſecured every avenue.

Next morning he ſaw the enemy on every ſide, preſenting a wall of bayonets, through which it was madneſs to think of penetrating, conſidering his great loſs on the preceding day: therefore he ſurrendered with the whole army priſoners of war. This was a terrible blow to the Pruſſian power in the preſent critical ſtate; yet while the king of Pruſſia was ſtaggering under it, he felt another; a body of his troops poſted on the Elbe, oppoſite to Meiſſen, was on the 4th of December, attacked by the Auſtrians, and between 3 and 4000 of them were killed and made priſoners. While the king of Pruſſia was ſuffering under theſe misfortunes, he received a ſupply from prince Ferdinand, who detached the Hereditary Prince to his aſſiſtance, the king hoping by this means, to gain ſome advantage over M. Daun; but this general acting with ſo much caution, that he finding it impoſſible, the Hereditary Prince returned to the allies, who by this time had recommenced the ſiege of Munſter, and reduced it. After theſe tranſactions all the armies went into winter quarters.

The war in America had for its grand object the reduction of Canada; which the miniſtry propoſed to effect by attaking three parts at once, in order to divide and diſtract the enemy's attention: a fleet was diſpatched from England in the month of February, commanded by the admirals Saunders and Holmes, with whom, according to the plan laid down, major-general Wolfe, with 8000 men, was to proceed up the river St. Lawrence, to Quebec, the capital of the province; while general Amherſt, who commanded in chief, with 12,000 men, ſhould reduce Ticonderago and Crownpoint, and proceed along the river St. Laurence, join general Wolfe, and lay ſiege to Quebec: the third body under the command of general Prideaux and Sir William Johnſon, was to reduce the fort of Niagara, and proceed to Montreal, the other principal city

city in Canada. The armament deſigned againſt Quebec, ſailed up the river St. Lawrence, and in the month of June arrived at the iſle of Orleans, a little below Quebec. The general immediately took poſſeſſion of this iſland, and alſo of a point of land on the continent that was oppoſite to it called point Levi; which was within cannon ſhot of the city. Quebec, was not only well fortified and defended by a numerous garriſon, but likewiſe covered by the marquis de Montcalm, with an army of 10,000 men, regulars and provincials, poſted in a very advantageous manner. General Wolfe reſolved to attack the enemy's entrenchments at Montmorenci; for this purpoſe, the neceſſary diſpoſitions were made, and the grenadiers were landed, with orders to form on the beach, and wait until a reinforcement ſhould be ſent them; but they inſtead of obeying this prudent direction, the moment they were on ſhore, ruſhed impetuouſly on the enemy and were repulſed and thrown into diſorder; upon which the general ordered them to be drawn off. This was a diſcouraging circumſtance, as there appeared a multitude of difficulties in every ſtep that could poſſibly be taken, and as it was the only one that ſeemed to wear a feaſible appearance; the general loſt here a great many men, which together with the miſcarriage made a deep impreſſion on his mind; which being too great to brook with cenſure or diſgrace; he began to dread the cruel clamours of his invidious and ungrateful countrymen; who are ſo ready upon any diſappointment, even where an officer has done all in his power, to brand him with infamy; he was often heard to ſigh, and in the tranſports of his chagrin to ſay, he would never return witout ſucceſs, to be expoſed as other commanders had been to the cenſure and reproach of an ignorant and ungrateful populace. How truly piteous is ſuch a caſe! As ſoon as he recovered, he ſent a letter to Mr. Pitt, particulariſing every tranſaction and difficulty;

culty. After a deliberation with the officers, it was determined to proceed up the river, and make their efforts on that ſide of the town, for which admiral Holmes was ordered to ſail higher up the river than the place appointed to land at, in order to draw the enemy's attention that way; and ſo far it anſwered, that Montcalm detached 1500 men to watch this fleet, on board of which was general Wolfe with about 5000 men, the reſt being left at Orleans and Levi; while admiral Saunders, made a feint to attack the enemy's entrenchments below the town. On the 13th of September, at one o'clock in the morning, the troops were put into the boats and glided ſoftly down under cover of admiral Holmes, to the intended place of diſembarkation; where with admirable courage, but with great difficulty, they aſcended one by one, the woody precipices, and at length gained the ſummit; they were drawn up in order by general Wolfe, who was one of the firſt that landed. This place was called the Heights of Abraham, and are ſaid to command the weakeſt part of the town. Montcalm, was no ſooner informed that the Engliſh had gained this advantageous ground, than he reſolved to give them battle, and immediately began his march; but the Engliſh troops reſerved their fire, until the enemy advanced very cloſe, which was no ſooner done than they made terrible havoc among them; but juſt in the moment when the fortune of the field, began to declare in favour of the Engliſh, general Wolfe was killed by a ſhot in the breaſt *; the troops, however, preſerving their ſpirit, drove

* The circumſtances attending the death of this young hero, are too curious and too affecting to be paſſed over in ſilence. He firſt received a wound in the wriſt, but that he might not diſcourage his troops, he wrapped it up in his handkerchief, and encouraged his men to advance; ſoon after he received another ball in his belly; this alſo he diſſembled, and exerted himſelf as before;

drove the enemy from every poſt, and at length totally defeated them with the loſs of their general. Five days after the town ſurrendered, without being beſieged in form. While theſe vigorous operations were purſuing, general Amherſt on his ſide, advanced to Crown-point, which, as well as Ticonderago, the enemy had abandoned on his approach; then he prepared to croſs the lake Champlain, but finding the ſeaſon cold and boiſterous, he poſtponed the remainder of his meaſures until the next campaign; thus the great end of an open communication with general Wolfe, was not effected, and that general, as we have ſeen, was left to the exertion of his ſingle ſtrength. The third part of the plan was not leſs ſucceſsful. General Prideaux advanced to fort Niagara, which by its ſituation awes the Five Nations, or thoſe Indian tribes which lie to the northward of the lakes; he laid ſiege to it, but the operations had not long been carried on, before he was killed

before; when he received a third in his breaſt, under which he at laſt ſunk, and ſuffered himſelf, unwillingly, to be carried behind the ranks. As he lay ſtruggling with the anguiſh and weakneſs of three grievous wounds, he ſeemed only ſolicitous about the fortune of the battle. He begged one who attended him, to ſupport him to view the field; but as he found that the approach of death had dimmed and confuſed his ſight, he deſired an officer, who was by him, to give him an account of what he ſaw. The officer anſwered, that the enemy ſeemed broken; he repeated his queſtion a few minutes after with much anxiety, when he was told, that the enemy was totally routed, and that they fled in all parts. Then, ſaid he, "I am ſatisfied;" and immediately expired. His death was greatly lamented by his country, and envied by all who had a true reliſh for military glory; unindebted to family, or connections, unſupported by intrigue or faction, he had accompliſhed the whole buſineſs of life, at a time, when others are only beginning to appear; and at the age of thirty-five, without feeling the weakneſs of age, or the viciſſitude of fortune, having ſatisfied his honeſt ambition, having compleated his character, having fulfilled the expectations of his country, he fell at the head of his conquering troops, and expired in the arms of victory.

by the burſting of a cohorn; upon which the command devolved upon Sir Wm. Johnſon, who puſhed on the ſiege with great alacrity, inſomuch, that the French, apprehending the place in imminent danger, and being ſenſible of its great importance, immediately collected a body of forces and marched towards the place with a view of raiſing the ſiege; but general Johnſon gave them ſo warm a reception, as ended in nothing leſs than a total defeat; upon which the fort ſurrendered and the garriſon were made priſoners.

Theſe, however. were not all the attempts made for cruſhing the French power in America. A deſign was formed in England, for taking the iſland of Martinico, upon a repreſentation that it was extremely practicable. Accordingly, early in the month of January, a fleet of ten ſhips of the line, commanded by commodore Moore, having on board general Hodgſon, with ſix regiments of infantry, apppeared before it; and having landed without oppoſition, they found ſo many obſtacles to the conveyance of cannon before they could approach the capital fort of the iſland, that the land commander deemed them inſurmountable, while the naval officer held it impoſſible to put the cannon aſhore nearer to the fort. A jealouſy, or diſagreement, aroſe between them, and the conſequence was, after terribly alarming the whole iſland; the reimbarkation of the troops on the ſame day that they landed. Judging it impoſſible to do any thing at Martinico, they ſailed away for Guadaloupe, in hopes of better fortune. On the 23d of the ſame month, they appeared before Baſſe-Terre, the capital of the iſland, which being cannonaded and bombarded by the fleet, was in ſeveral places ſet on fire, and continued to burn all that and the following day, when the inhabitants and troops quitting the place, retired into the mountainous part of the country, and permitted the Engliſh to land without oppoſition.

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Soon after, general Hodgſon died of a fever, which proved fatal to a great many others, and the command devolved on general Barrington, who embarked the forces and ſailed to the other parts of the iſland, where he reduced all the principal towns; but it was not until the firſt of May, that the whole iſland, or more properly ſpeaking, the two iſlands, which are denominated Guadaloupe, ſurrendered. This ſurrender was hardly made, when a French ſquadron appeared to the relief of the iſland, but finding they were too late to do any good, they ſailed away. Had they come a day ſooner, they had probably ſaved the place. Before the end of the month the iſland of Marigalante ſurrendered.

In the Eaſt-Indies, the Britiſh arms were not leſs victorious. After Lally's misfortune before the king of Tanjour's capital, he reſolved to lay ſiege to Madraſs, which work he began on the 6th of January, and continued in a ſlovenly, ridiculous manner, until the 6th of February, without doing any material damage to the place, and which he raiſed in the utmoſt tranſports of rage and deſpair. The beſieged now ſallying out, took the field againſt him, but being at preſent too weak to undertake any thing important, they contented themſelves with executing detached expeditions until the month of September, when it was reſolved to attack Lally in his ſtrong camp at Wandewaſh; but the aſſailants were ſeverely repulſed and obliged to retire in confuſion. After this, colonel Coote, an officer lately arrived from Europe, was ordered to take the field, and the army being conſiderably reinforced, he reduced Wandewaſh and ſeveral other places of leſs importance. Mean while colonel Ford in Bengal, defeated a conſiderable number of French in Bengal, and took Maſulipatam; and captain Richard Maitland, being employed on an expedition againſt the Seapoys at Surat, poſſeſſed himſelf of the town and caſtle with-

out much loſs. During theſe tranſactions at land, the diſpute ſtill continued between the French and Engliſh ſquadrons. On the eighth of September, they deſcried each other near Pondicherry; and on the 10th, a ſharp engagement began, which raged with great fury for two hours, when the French being ſick of the fight deſiſted and fled: the Engliſh however were ſo much damaged they could not purſue, but having refitted, they returned to Pondicherry in queſt of the French ſquadron, intending to bring on another engagement; but as ſoon as the enemy perceived their approach, they precipitately put to Sea and outſailed the Engliſh, who were about this time joined by a reinforcement from Europe, under the command of rear-admiral Corniſh.

The great extenſion of the Britiſh trade in this quarter of the globe, excited the jealouſy and envy of the Dutch, who ſecretly formed a ſcheme for extirpating the Engliſh out of Bengal; they tampered with the nabob Jaffier Ali-Cawn, and he connived at their intentions. Their firſt aim was to engroſs the whole ſalt-petre trade; a part of which, they enjoyed by their factory at Chinſurra, where they had a ſtrong fort on the river Bengal, higher up than Calcutta. The governor of Batavia, having charged himſelf with the execution of this roguiſh action, choſe the opportunity while the Britiſh ſquadron were abſent; and having equipped ſeven ſhips, and put on board them 12,000 troops, on pretence of reinforcing the Dutch garriſons in Bengal, they ſailed for the river of Bengal, and in October, three of them arrived there. Colonel Clive, who reſided at Calcutta, having notice of their deſign, ſent word to the Dutch commodore, that he could not allow them to land their forces and march to Chinſurra; but no ſooner were the reſt of the troops arrived, than the troops were landed, and began their march for Chinſurra. The Dutch commodore, by way of retaliating the affront

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he pretended to have received, in being denied a paſſage to Chinſurra, took ſeveral Engliſh veſſels on the river; and one of the Indiamen coming down at that time, he told the captain, that if he preſumed to paſs he would ſink him; upon which the veſſel returned to Calcutta, where colonel Clive, ordered three Indiamen that were there to go and fight the Dutch; and they obeyed this order with ſo much vivacity and courage, that they compelled three of the Dutch ſhips, with the commodore, to ſurrender; two ran away and they drove the laſt aſhore. In the mean time, the Dutch troops were not more fortunate than their ſhips: colonel Clive detached colonel Forde, with 500 men, to oppoſe their progreſs; on the 25th of November, he met with them and gave them battle with great reſolution; in a ſhort time they gave way and were totally defeated: during this action, the nabob, with a conſiderable army looking on, obſerved a ſuſpicious neutrality, and in all probability would have declared for the Dutch, had they proved victorious; but no ſooner had the Engliſh gained the victory, than he offered them his ſervice. The Dutch finding their whole ſcheme defeated, began to think of accommodating matters; a treaty was concluded, by which the ſhips were reſtored; and the priſoners were releaſed as ſoon as the Dutch factory at Chinſurra had given ſecurity to indemnify the Engliſh for the damage they had ſuſtained. How ſimilar is this to the affair of Amboyna? how timid are we to ſuffer it to paſs unrevenged?

The Britiſh naval tranſactions were as brilliant and ſucceſsful as the moſt ſanguine wiſh could deſire. Though the French were in poſſeſſion of the iſland of Minorca, yet the Engliſh ſquadron in the Mediterranean, plainly evinced it was of very little ſervice to them; for notwithſtanding the many pretended benefits ariſing from this poſſeſſion, they could not protect their marine. Admiral Boſcawen, who had

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ſucceeded admiral Oſborne, appeared before Toulon; and though he received ſome damage from two forts which he attempted to deſtroy, yet it ſhewed the ſpirit and bravery of an Engliſh admiral. Having retired to Gibraltar to refit, M. de la Clue, who commanded the French ſquadron in Toulon, ſeized the opportunity of ſailing, hoping he ſhould paſs the Streights-mouth unobſerved, and then proceed to join the grand fleet at Breſt, which the French had equipped with a view of invading England; but the vigilant Boſcawen had ſtationed cruizers at ſeveral places, to keep a good look-out, and give him timely notice of de la Clue's approach. Accordingly, on the 17th of Auguſt, ſignal was made of the enemy's being on the Barbary ſhore; upon which, the Engliſh ſquadron ſailed in queſt of them, and fell in with ſeven ſhips off Cape Lagos, the reſt having ſeparated in the night. Boſcawen run along ſide the French admiral and began a furious engagement; but being neceſſitated to change his flag, his antagoniſt in the interim eſcaped to land: however, two ſhips, one of 64, and the other of 74 guns were taken, who had alſo run to the coaſt, another was bulged and burned, and de la Clue having quitted his ſhip, ſhe was taken by the victors, who finding it impoſſible to get her off, deſtroyed her.

The French ſpent this ſummer in meditating and preparing an invaſion of the Britiſh dominions: All their ports on the ocean were full of men of war and tranſports, and flat-bottomed boats. They talked of a tripple embarkation, one from Dunkirk againſt Scotland, under the direction of M. Thurot, a bold adventurer; who, from a captain of a privateer, in which he had greatly annoyed the Engliſh trade, became a commodore in the king's ſervice. The ſecond from Havre de Grace againſt England, which being the ſhorteſt voyage, was to be attempted by flat-bottomed boats. The third, ſuppoſed to be againſt

againſt Ireland, was to be made from Vannes, where the troops lay encamped under the command of the duke d' Aguillon, and were to be conducted by the Breſt ſquadron, commanded by M. Conflans. Had this deſign been ſuch as it was repreſented, and had it been put into execution, there is no doubt but it would have cauſed great confuſion. But the excellent meaſures taken by the Britiſh government, fruſtrated the projects of the enemy whatever they were. Thurot was blocked up in Dunkirk, by a ſquadron commanded by commodore Boys. The brave and vigilant admiral Hawke, with a large fleet confined Conflans in Breſt; he likewiſe kept a watch upon the deſign at Vannes. Admiral Rodney was diſpatched from England, with a proper ſquadron to bombard Havre de Grace, and deſtroy the preparations there, which ſervice he performed with tolerable ſucceſs. However, they continued their preparations with great celerity, and they ſeemed reſolved at all events, to hazard the tranſportation of a body of troops from Vannes. Even when winter approached, the ſame reſolution was purſued, perhaps from an expectation that the tempeſtuous weather would compel the Britiſh navy to take refuge in their own harbours, and their fleets might then come out unoppoſed. This hope was not diſappointed: Sir Edward Hawke was by a violent ſtorm obliged to quit his ſtation off Breſt, and to come with his whole fleet to Torbay. The enemy availed themſelves of his abſence, and on the 14th of November put to ſea. The whole Engliſh nation was alarmed, but not confuſed. And now the event of the whole war was to be put to the iſſue, for on the good or ill ſucceſs of this ſtroke every thing depended. Admiral Hawke loſt not a moment's time, he put to ſea on the ſame day that Conflans did, and judging that the rendezvous of the enemy's fleet would be at Quiberon, he directed his courſe for that Bay: after beating againſt

againſt an high wind ſome time, he at length ſaw the deſired object in his reach, but the ſituation was extremely dangerous; the rocks, ſands, and ſhoals, round about, were innumerable, the Britiſh pilots knew nothing of the place, the wind blew a violent ſtorm, and the waves ran mountains high. Some commanders would have been intimidated in theſe circumſtances, but Hawke conſidered the public ſafety, and was animated. He ordered his neareſt ſhips to the enemy to engage, which they did, with great intrepity. Conflans acted with ridiculous irreſolution; he at firſt had two choices, either to fly, or ſtand and fight; for a while he followed the latter, but when it was too late, he purſued the former. Hawke, who was in the Royal George, ordered the fire of that great ſhip to be reſerved for the French admiral, and directed his captain to carry her along ſide him; but a French ſhip of ſeventy guns generouſly put herſelf between them; here Hawke was obliged to beſtow his fire, and at one broad ſide he ſunk her to the bottom, with every ſoul on board; another French ſhip ſhared the ſame fate, and a third ſtruck. The enemies fleet fled on all ſides, and night ſaved them from utter deſtruction. However, two of the Engliſh ſhips, in the eagerneſs of the purſuit, ran upon a ſand, and were loſt. Seven of the French ſhips threw over their guns, and eſcaped up the river Villaine, and as many more put to ſea. The night that ſucceeded this action, was perhaps the moſt terrible that can be conceived: the wind blew a violent ſtorm all night long, it was a pitchy darkneſs, and a dangerous coaſt ſurrounded them. A continual firing of diſtreſs guns was heard, but no-body knew whether they came from friend or enemy: the badneſs of the coaſt, and the darkneſs of the night, made the hearers equally unwilling and unable to ſeek to give any aſſiſtance. In the morning they perceived the French admiral had run aſhore,

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as well as another ſhip; the firſt the enemy ſet on fire, and the other was burned by the victors. Thus the long threatened invaſion, which was to repair the French loſſes in all parts of the world, was defeated, and a finiſhing blow, for this reign, given to the naval power of France; for during it they never undertook any thing of conſequence. The ſquadron of M. de Thurot for a little while had better fortune. He eſcaped out of Dunkirk, and proceeded northward. Commodore Boys, who had blocked him up in Dunkirk, purſued him as far as Scotland, but to no purpoſe; he took refuge in Bergen, where he remained on account of the boiſterous weather till January 1760, when he ſet ſail in great want of proviſion for the coaſt of Scotland; he landed on the iſland of Iſla, where he was informed of the defeat of M. Conflans; having refreſhed his men, and obtained a comfortable, though a ſmall ſupply of proviſions, he ſet ſail for Ireland. On the 21ſt of February, he effected a deſcent on that kingdom at Carrickfergus, and compelled a few troops in garriſon there to ſurrender; he likewiſe extorted ſome contributions, but as a body of troops were aſſembling, he found it unſafe to remain on ſhore, and therefore re-imbarked. While this adventurer continued in theſe northern ſeas, the coaſts of the two kingdoms were filled with alarm; but theſe apprehenſions diſſipated in a few days. Captain Elliot who commanded three frigates at Kinſale, being informed by a diſpatch from the duke of Bedford, lord lieutenant of Ireland, of Thurot's ſituation, immediately ſet ſail in queſt of him, and on the 28th of February their ſquadrons, conſiſting of only three frigates each, came to an engagement off the iſle of Man. During the conflict, Thurot was killed; ſoon after which his ſhip ſurrendered, and the other two followed her example.

Theſe repeated diſaſters to the French fleet, as well as their loſſes in every other part of the world, reduced them to the neceſſity of ſtopping payment of the following public debts, viz. 1. The three kinds of rents created on the poſts. 2. Thoſe conſtituted upon the cheſt of redemptions. 3. The coupons of bills on the ſame cheſt. 4. Thoſe of the two royal lotteries. 5. The reimburſement of bills drawn to bear on the ſame cheſt. 6. The bills of the two royal lotteries. 7. The rents created on the two ſols per pound of the tenth penny. 8. The reimburſement of the capitals of rents. 9. The payments of bills diſchargeable in nine years, known under the name of annuities. 10. Thoſe of the new actions on the benefit of the farms. 11. All the bills drawn by the colonies upon the government, amounting to 1,233,000l.

On the other hand, the credit of Great Britain was riſen to an aſtoniſhing height; the parliament met in the month of November, and having fixed the number of ſailors to be employed in the enſuing year at 73,000, and that of the ſoldiers at 57,000, they granted for the maintenance of theſe forces and other uſes, the ſum of fifteen millions, five hundred three thouſand, five hundred and ſixty three pounds, a ſum ſo enormous, that every individual who wiſhes well to his country, cannot reflect on without concern; a ſum more than double the largeſt ever granted to the late queen Anne, when the nation retained half the powers in Europe in its pay. Of this immenſe ſum, upwards of two millions, three hundred and forty thouſand pounds was paid to foreigners for ſupporting the German war, excluſive of the money expended by our troops there, who did not amount to leſs than 20,000, beſides the charge of tranſporting them and the heavy article of forage: we will be

be free enough to aſſert, that we can perceive no advantage ariſing to either Britain or Hanover from this connexion with the continent; we muſt, as Engliſhmen, alſo ſay, that we think the loſs ſuſtained by it, is apparent and grievous. Where then is the truth of that deluſive tale, artfully ſpread among the people, and rammed down their throats, as the ſoldier does ſhot and powder down a gun barrel, about the proteſtant religion; the glory of fighting in Germany, and the diverting of the French, from which it was pretended our other operations derived great advantage, when to mention only one article, *viz.* the loſs of ſo many hands from induſtry, huſbandry, and manufacture, ſufficiently evinces to the contrary.

During the winter, the kings of Great Britain and Pruſſia, made offers towards a general pacification; but they had no effect; perhaps becauſe the French hoped to retake ſome of the places they had loſt, and thereby be enabled to inſiſt on better terms than at this time ſhe could expect. The king of Pruſſia, by means of the ſubſidy which he drew from England, was ſtill enabled to make head againſt his enemies; and the Auſtrians ſtill hoping to recover Sileſia again, reſolved to attempt it; for this purpoſe, general Laudohn, with 49,000 men, was ordered to exert his endeavours; he entered that duchy, and immediately laid ſiege to Glatz; but finding it was likely to prove a difficult enterprize, becauſe 23,000 Pruſſians, under the command of general Fouquet, were ſtrongly poſted at Landſhut, had it in their power to diſturb his operations; he raiſed the ſiege, and marched againſt Fouquet. On the 23d of June the Pruſſian entrenchments were forced after a bloody and furious conflict of five hours, in which both ſides loſt a great number of men; but what was left of the

Pruſſians, except about 3,000, who found means to eſcape to Breſlau, were with their general made priſoners. Encouraged by this ſucceſs, the Auſtrian general laid ſiege to Glatz, and with little trouble compelled the garriſon to ſurrender; after which he undertook the ſiege of Breſlau, but Prince Henry of Pruſſia advancing to its relief, obliged him to retire. The king of Pruſſia, who was all this time in Saxony, watching count Daun, finding that Sileſia was made the ſcene of war, and that general Laudohn expected ſoon to be joined by the Ruſſians, who for that purpoſe were in motion, quitted Saxony, and began his march for that dutchy himſelf. Daun was no ſooner informed of this movement, than he followed the king with ſuch expedition, that in a little time he gained two days march on him. The monarch perceiving his deſign to be fruſtrated, ſuddenly returned into Saxony, and immediately laid ſiege to Dreſden. Daun, finding himſelf duped by this ſtratagem, he returned with great rapidity, and obliged the king of Pruſſia to raiſe the ſiege. Thus diſappointed, the king again began his march to Sileſia, becauſe the Ruſſians were on the point of joining general Laudohn, and their junction ſeemed to threaten the loſs of all Sileſia: again Daun followed him; but he took poſſeſſion of the camp at Ligntz, where in a little time, he found himſelf in danger of being ſurrounded by his adverſaries, who at this time formed a deſign of attacking him by ſurpriſe, upon which he altered his diſpoſition on the 14th of Auguſt, and at two o'clock next morning, he was informed that Laudohn was in full march to attack him; upon which he poſted a body of troops between that general and Daun, to prevent any attempts, which Daun might make, for the aſſiſtance of his colleague, while with the reſt of his army he ſecured an advantageous ſi-

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tuation, for falling on Laudohn, as he advanced. This general did not perceive the Pruſſians 'till it was too late to recede; ſo that in this ſituation he was neceſſitated to fight. The action began about three o'clock, and was maintained with great obſtinacy till ſix, when the Auſtrians having loſt in killed and taken near 8000 men, gave way, and the Pruſſians purſued them a few miles; but the king, who on this occaſion, diſplayed more prudence and ſkill than ever he had done before, would not ſuffer them to proceed any farther, leſt Daun ſhould ſucceed in a deſign he had formed, to attack the Pruſſians on another ſide, at the ſame time with Laudohn, for which Daun had actually begun his march; but he was ſurpriſed to find the Pruſſians decamped; ſoon after, perceiving the ſmoke of the action, he comprehended the king's management, upon which he reſolved to ſuccour Laudohn: but here again he was diſappointed; for the body of troops which the king of Pruſſia had excellently poſted to prevent ſuch deſign, Daun did not think proper to attempt to force. By this well conducted enterprize, the king of Pruſſia eſcaped the danger of a total defeat by two powerful armies, as well as prevented the junction of the Auſtrians and Ruſſians. However, Count Daun in a little time laid ſiege to Schweidnitz, upon which the king advanced with his whole force to the relief of that place, and obliged the enemy to retire to Landſhut. But in the mean time the Ruſſians entered Brandenburg, and penetrated to Berlin, which they laid under contribution, and in its neighbourhood committed many cruel and horrid ravages.

The marſhal duke de Broglio, who had been raiſed to the command of the French army, in conſequence of the diſmiſſion of M. Contades, whoſe conduct

conduct in the battle of Minden had been diſapproved, frequently diſturbed the winter quarters of the allies. His army was augmented to 100,000 men; and a ſecond army of 30,000 men was formed under the direction of the count de St. Germain. But theſe troops were hindered from taking the field ſo ſoon as the French court intended by the want of forage; an article which more powerfully affected the allies, for the neceſſity of obtaining it obliged them to fall back to Paderborn, and draw it from Bremen and Hamburg. Divers ſkirmiſhes were fought with various ſucceſs, but none of them deſerved to be ranked in an epitome of general hiſtory, becauſe none of them were productive of any material conſequence. In the month of July M. Broglio ſhewed a deſign of penetrating into Hanover through Heſſe, and with this view he reſolved to effect a junction with the count de St. Germain. Prince Ferdinand being informed of ſuch intention reſolved to prevent this junction, and choſe a poſition accordingly: his advanced guard, commanded by the hereditary prince, attacked the enemy at Corbach, and met with a ſevere repulſe; but he with difficulty effected a tolerable retreat, by making a ſeaſonable and vigorous effort at the head of the Britiſh cavalry. However in a little time he found means to retrieve his honour; a body of the enemy having advanced to Exdorf, on the left of the allied army, he, unexpectedly, attacked them with great fury, and Elliot's regiment of Engliſh light horſe bravely diſtinguiſhed themſelves. This corps of the enemy was routed. The duke de Broglio did not ſeem to take notice of theſe actions; he effected his junction with the count de St. Germain; but this latter, who was his ſenior officer, conceived a diſguſt to him, and relinquiſhed his command, which was given to the chevalier de Muy,

Muy, who the duke directed to cut off the communication of the allies with Weſtphalia, while he himſelf entered Caſſel. The chevalier choſe his ſituation near Warbourg, where prince Ferdinand reſolved to attack him both in flank and rear, which he did with equal impetuoſity and ſucceſs. The marquis of Granby, at the head of the Britiſh cavalry, ſignalized himſelf in an intrepid manner. The enemy were compelled to fly with great precipitation, having loſt about 1500 men and ſome cannon. While prince Ferdinand's attention was employed this way, marſhal Broglio with great facility entered Heſſe. Here we ſhall conclude our relation of the Germanic tranſactions, and proceed to finiſh thoſe of America.

The French force in Canada, notwithſtanding the conqueſt of Quebec, was ſtill formidable. The fortifications of that city being in a ruined condition, general Murray, who was appointed governor of it, with 6000 men, began to repair them; but before this could be done the marquis de Vaudreuil, the French governor of Canada, collected his forces together, and in the month of April gave battle to general Murray on the heights contiguous to the town; from which, by their vaſt ſuperiority, they compelled him to retire, and throw himſelf into the town, which they immediately beſieged. However, as ſoon as the river was open, a ſquadron of ſhips, under the command of lord Colville, who ſailed up the river, obliged the enemy to raiſe the ſiege and retire to Montreal, the only place which the French held in Canada. Againſt this place general Amherſt directed his motions; he aſſembled his troops as early as poſſible at Oſwego, and embarked his forces on board a number of battoes, and ſailed down the river St. Lawrence till he came to the iſland of Montreal,

Montreal, where he landed in the month of September; and next day the marquis de Vaudreuil propoſed terms of capitulation for the ſurrender of all Canada; which after divers amendments were agreed to.

In the Eaſt Indies, the Britiſh arms were not leſs ſucceſsful. Colonel Coote, who commanded on the coaſt of Coromandel, having defeated general Lally in the field, obliged him to ſeek refuge within the walls of Pondicherry. He afterwards took ſeveral Indian towns, and at length laid ſiege to Pondicherry, which he reduced; but this latter circumſtance did not happen till the ſucceeding reign.

In the Weſt Indies commodore Holmes, who was ſtationed there, took and deſtroyed off Hiſpaniola, two French frigates, who were deſtined to convoy a fleet of merchant ſhips to Old France. But this vigilance did not diſtinguiſh the Britiſh tranſactions in the European ſeas; that ſpirit with which they had lately acted, ſeemed now to languiſh; and if we except the deſtroying a few boats on the enemy's coaſt, nothing was done during the whole ſummer. It is true, great preparations were made for a ſecret expedition; a body of troops were aſſembled, and the whole incurred a prodigious expence, but it ſerved no other purpoſe than amuſing the attention of the people: in a word, the whole ſeaſon was ſpent in idleneſs and inaction, and then the deſign was laid aſide. Thus an immenſe ſum, which was granted for proſecuting the war with vigour was laviſhed on a fruitleſs parade, though perhaps had the armament ſailed, no attempt would have been made to annoy the enemy on Britiſh principles; in all probability it was deſigned to be employed either to favour, or to be ſubſervient to the continental ſyſtem, though at this time

time the French poſſeſſed the iſland of Minorca in the Mediterranean, that of Mauritius on the coaſt of Africa, and that of Martinico in America; beſides the great province of Louiſiana, all objects of great importance.

At this period, the monarch died at the age of 77, and after a reign of 34 years. This event happened on the 25th day of October, between the hours of ſeven and eight in the morning at Kenſington. He had roſe at his uſual time, without any apparent ſigns of indiſpoſition. He called his page, drank his chocolate, and enquired about the wind, as if anxious for the arrival of the mails, which had been detained in Holland a conſiderable time. He opened his window, and looked out for the æther from which the wind blew; and ſeeing it a fine day, ſaid he would walk in the gardens. This paſſed while the page attended him at breakfaſt; but on leaving the room he heard a deep ſigh, immediately followed by a noiſe like the falling of a billet of wood from the fire, and, returning haſtily, found the king dropt down from his ſeat, as if in attempting to ring the bell, who ſaid faintly, "Call Amelia," and then expired. He was inſtantly raiſed and laid upon the bed; the princeſs was called, who was told he was dead upon her entering the room, but being a little deaf, and her ſpirits being hurried by the alarm, ſhe did not underſtand what was ſaid, and ran up to the bed ſide, and ſtooping tenderly over her father, as thinking he might ſpeak to her in a low voice, ſhe then firſt diſcovered he was dead; this ſhock ſo ſudden, ſo unexpected, and ſo violent, threw her into an agony. His majeſty, in the fall, received a ſmall hurt on his temple, and his phyſicians and ſurgeons being ſent for, came inſtantly to his aſſiſtance, but

without effect. An attempt was made to bleed him, but the iſſues of life were dried up *.

King George was in his perſon well ſhaped and erect, but he was rather below the middle ſize. His complexion was fair, his noſe high, and his eyes large. His mein was majeſtic; and he wore age ſo extremely well, that time ſat on his countenance with a grace; perhaps not a little owing to his regular way of living, which was temperate and extremely methodical. In his temper he was ſudden and violent, and theſe paſſions are ſuſpected to have ſometimes made an impreſſion on his conduct which tended rather to wound than increaſe the affection of the people; perhaps ſome diſgraces in the courſe of the reign were too precipitately made, and perhaps for trifles, which, it is eaſy to conceive, will inflame parties,

* The cauſe of a monarch's death is always enquired into with ſuch minuteneſs, that it may be thought neceſſary to give the following account of what appeared to the ſerjeant ſurgeons on opening the body. On opening the belly they found all the parts in a natural and healthy ſtate, except that on the ſurface of the kidney there were ſome watry bladders, which, they ſaid, could not have been at this time of any material conſequence. On opening the breaſt, they obſerved the pericardium, or bag, which contains the heart, extraordinarily diſtended, which was owing to a large effuſion of blood that had been diſcharged therein, from a rupture in the ſubſtance of the right ventricle of the heart. The quantity of the blood in the pericardium, was at leaſt a pint, the moſt part of which was ſtrongly coagulated. The rupture of the ventricle, and the conſequent effuſion of blood in the pericardium, were certainly the immediate cauſe of his ſudden death. The brain, lungs, and all the other parts, were in a perfect ſtate.

This caſe is ſaid, by the faculty, to be of the moſt extraordinary kind, becauſe he was of a healthy conſtitution, unaccuſtomed to exceſs, and far advanced beyond that period of life when the blood might be ſuppoſed to flow with a dangerous impetuoſity.

parties, not extinguiſh them. Some cool and ſteady friends to the conſtitution, thought they deſcried a want of patience and condeſcenſion to purſue an healing meaſure, which till the year 1757 was not accompliſhed: others, who ſaw him ſurrounded by a ſet of v——l m——s, whom we characteriſed in page nine, under the denomination of whigs or courtiers, abated in this imputation, and conſidered thoſe adults in proſtitution, partiality, and prejudice, as the cauſe of many evils: however it muſt be acknowledged, that to ſome of his ſervants he exhibited extraordinary marks of favour and protection. In his diſpoſition, he was merciful; and on numberleſs occaſions, humane. On the ſuppreſſion of the rebellion, which happened in his reign, his behaviour was not remarkable for either ſeverity or clemency. The exceſſes committed in Scotland, he neither commanded nor approved. He has been cenſured as parſimonious, and this cenſure is not without foundation; in many branches of his private œconomy, his attention deſcended to objects which a great king ſhould overlook. That he reſerved money by being leſs munificent and liberal than ought to diſtinguiſh a king of Great Britain, and that he expended this money on account of his Hanoverian ſubjects, may be gathered from his frugal conduct in England, his general attention to money, his remarkable and moſt extraordinary love for them, and, on his deceaſe, his wealth being found to be far inferior to what the people of Great Britain had in general apprehended. He appears with greateſt luſtre in the character of a ſoldier; in that capacity he loved war, ſtudied it as a ſcience, correſponded on the ſubject with ſome of the beſt officers in Germany, and, above all, was perſonally brave. The faculties of his underſtanding were not either lively or brilliant *;

* See the famous ſpeech of Sir William Wyndham in the year 1733.

he ſhewed little concern or encouragement for the arts, and exhibited a leſs generous regard to genius and learning. It will always be remembered, and caſt a blemiſh, that in a reign of thirty-four years, the Engliſh literature was not honoured with any attention from the throne; it only flouriſhed under the indulgence of the public, and even this indulgence received a check by a law, ſubjecting all dramatic pieces to the inſpection of a licenſer. To ſay he was perfectly acquainted with our conſtitution, would, in the opinion of ſome men, be paying him as diſputable a compliment, as to ſay he perfectly knew our language. However it muſt be acknowledged, he was a thorough ſtateſman with regard to the affairs of Germany. It is true, his government ſeldom deviated from the eſtabliſhed forms of law*; yet it was diſtinguiſhed by a cloſe attention to the intereſts of Germany, and his mind marked by a ſtrange affection for that country, and his reign was not leſs remarkable for German wars; in all which, Great-Britain was conſtantly plunged, either to trim the balance of power, or enter into trammels, for the defence of the proteſtant religion, but always to carry the great purſe and ſupply the beſt troops†; it was likewiſe

* Except the frequency of cabinet coucils be conſidered as a deviation.

† In the midſt of one of theſe deſtructive wars the monarch's deceaſe happened. Deſtructive we call it, becauſe never ſince the days of ignorance and barbariſm, have men been ſlaughtered with ſuch wantonneſs and profuſion, been expoſed to the unparellelled miſeries of winter campaigns, to diſtempers, to the rigour of the ſeaſon, to periſhing by want of food, to inſupportable fatigues, and other innumerable hardſhips, all impoſed in contempt of humanity, and in deſpite of nature. Such is German diſcipline! and ſuch the feeling of German generals! who without the leaſt conſideration of the lives of men, prodigally ſacrifice them upon many an uſeleſs and mad exploit. Britain has ſeverely felt theſe woes, the flower of her arms have been

likewiſe diſtinguiſhed by a certain weakneſs, which we wiſh the future hiſtorian, who may be more free had not cauſe to mention; however, we muſt beg leave to obſerve, that from ſome cauſe, which we will not pretend to define, the Britiſh ambaſſadors and conſuls at the foreign courts, made but a mean figure, in which their importance was loſt, the national honour tarniſhed, and its intereſt injured, they were in general, men who were unfit for this kind of ſervice; they had not abilities and ſpirit, to give credit and weight to their negociations, and other duties of their office: At home, a certain meanneſs and a long puſilanimity, were no leſs conſpicuous; a number of weak, low-minded, ſordid and ſelf-intereſted men, roſe into divers parts of power, and from a fatality as inglorious as it was impotent; ſome of them, who never knew how to manage a ſhilling of their own money, were at different times entruſted with a great ſhare of the management of the public treaſure; not leſs injurious was the ingrafting on the conſtitution a ſtanding army; the reign was long, and it was of courſe, chequered by a variety of events. His court was not ſo remarkable for brilliancy, good humour and

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been ſlaughtered, or carried off by diſeaſe and hardſhips, in thoſe inhoſpitable regions; her inhabitants have been ſaddled with the moſt grievous impoſitions, to ſupport ungrateful allies, from whom ſhe could receive no benefit, and by whom as a reward for ſo liberally pouring out her many good things, ſhe was at length deſerted; then by ſupporting another in a quarrel purely his own, from which ſhe can derive no benefit, and with which ſhe has not the leaſt connexion; whoſe private and public character concur in teſtifying he is of the blackeſt die; whoſe faith has been ſo often forfeited, and is held in ſuch diſtruſtful repute, that nothing will be hazarded in ſaying, he will no longer be an ally, than while he is paid for it. Thus by the exportation of her treaſure and men, ſhe is bleeding to death; ſhe is ſtill chained down Prometheus like, to the rock of Germany, for its vultures and eagles to drain her blood, and prey on her heart.

and ſpirit, as for the honour of our country we could wiſh; there appeared in it an ungracious reſerve, and a ſtill rotation of inſipid forms, which joined to a ſullen calm, failed not of rather diſguſting the viſitor, than affording him the leaſt room for admiration. He lived to ſee the ſpirit of party extinguiſhed, though it was not until towards the cloſe of his reign, to enjoy the comfortable ſatisfaction of having his family firmly and immoveably ſeated on the throne, to experience the fulleſt meaſure of his peoples affection, and to ſee the intrepidity of his arms and the power of his kingdoms, raiſed to a higher pitch of ſucceſs and glory, than it was once thought they poſſibly could arrive at: When all theſe were accompliſhed, it was his earneſt deſire to ſee an end of the war. His diſpoſition being naturally pacific, he was an enemy to no religion; he did not moleſt the free and full exerciſe of the powers of the human mind; among the many ſects which divide and compoſe the people of Great-Britain; this mildneſs and general toleration, will endear a reſpect to his memory, which the followers of all opinions will not ceaſe to pay; they will likewiſe reſpect him becauſe he reigned ſo long, and they will not forget that during his government they enjoyed many internal bleſſings, and if we except one momentary ſtorm of war, an uninterrupted ſeries of tranquility *.

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* He was born in the year 1683. In 1706, he was elected knight companion of the moſt noble order of the garter; on the 2d of June following, was inveſted with the whole habit and enſigns of the order; and on the 22d of December 1710, was inſtalled at Windſor, with the dukes of Devonſhire and Argyle, lord Halifax being his proxy. In November 1706, he was created marquiſs of Cambridge, earl of Milford-Haven, viſcount Northallerton, and baron of Tewkſbury. —— It was obſerved by ſome of his friends, that it was a defect to give him the peerage of England, and not the precedency of all other peers. In 1708, he went a volunteer to make a campaign in the Netherlands, under

under John duke of Marlborough, on the 11th of July, the battle of Oudeunard was fought, in which putting himſelf at the head of a ſquadron of Hanoverian dragoons, commanded by lieutenant-general Bulow, he charged the enemy ſword in hand, with the greateſt intrepidity. His horſe was killed under him, and colonel Luſechky, who commanded the ſquadron, was ſlain, by his ſide. On the acceſſion of George I. to the throne in 1714, he was created prince of Wales. On the death of that monarch, he was proclaimed king of Great-Britain, and on Wedneſday the 11th of October 1727, (O. S.) he was crowned in Weſtminſter-Abbey, with his queen the princeſs Caroline Wilhelmina Dorothea, daughter of John Frederic, Margrave of Brandenburg Anſpach, to whom he was married on the 22d of June 1705, and by whom he had two ſons and five daughters, who lived to years of maturity, viz. Frederic prince of Wales, and William duke of Cumberland, Anne the princeſs Royal, married to the late prince of Orange, Mary married to the landgrave of Heſſe-Caſſel, Louiſa married to the king of Denmark, Amelia and Carolina, who were never married.

FINIS.